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The War Record  
of the  
1/5th Battalion The  
Royal Warwickshire Regiment

LIEUT. C. E. CARRINGTON, M.C.

4/11/21  
5/21







# **The War Record**

of the

## **1/5th Battalion The Royal Warwickshire Regiment**

With Four Maps.

By  
**LIEUT. C. E. CARRINGTON, M.C.**

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## Preface.

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In order to obtain the account of an eye-witness of such an important part of this history, Major P. H. Carter, T.D., was approached, and he generously consented to write the greater part of the first chapter dealing with Mobilisation and the first year in France.

Thanks are due to the Officer in charge of Records at Warwick for giving me access to the War Diaries and other documents; and to Mr. R. R. W. Simpson, of Haileybury College, who has given up much of his time to drawing the four maps that accompany this volume.

It is inevitable that there should be mistakes and omissions in the lists, and I shall be glad to hear of any such discrepancies.

C. E. CARRINGTON,  
Haileybury College,  
Herts.

*March, 1922.*





*History of the 5th Territorial Battalion,  
The Royal Warwickshire Regiment.*

## Foreword.

1782—1914.

In the year 1782, when the country was being threatened with a French invasion, regiments of volunteers were raised all over England by private enterprise. Among them an association was formed in this city, which was in those days a small but prosperous country town, and which gave that body the name of the Birmingham Independent Volunteers. Their constitution was democratic, for they elected their officers by ballot and bound themselves with their own very formidable code of discipline, not the least of whose regulations commanded that each volunteer "should purchase a genteel blue uniform, decorated with epaulets of gold," which, together with his accoutrements, cost £17. This body, which seems hardly to have been as efficient as it was imposing on parade, passed away with the national emergency, but twelve years later £10,000 was raised by public subscription for the defence of the city in a new

crisis, and in 1797 the volunteers were revived as the Birmingham Loyal Association. A third revival on a sounder military basis, established the Loyal Birmingham Volunteers in 1803, a corps which existed for twelve years and was then disbanded, after the Battle of Waterloo, when Europe seemed to be settling into a lasting peace.

Although none of these successive formations had the opportunity of "making good" on active service, and though they were guilty of some laughable exploits as amateur soldiers, undoubtedly they sowed the seed that was to grow into the Volunteer movement of 1859. After various premature and ineffectual attempts, the "Birmingham Rifle Corps" came into existence on September 21st, 1859, under the command of Colonel The Hon. Charles Scott, and this battalion had an unbroken existence for sixty years, known successively as the 1st Volunteer Battalion, and later as the 5th (Territorial) Battalion, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Through forty years of peace the corps thrived, its numbers and efficiency increased, and many influential citizens devoted much of their time to the support of the regiment. From 1875 an annual camp was held; in 1881 the barracks at Thorp Street, where the battalion still has its headquarters, were opened; in 1883 it became associated with the county regiment, and another century of gallant traditions was thus inherited, for the Royal Warwickshire Regiment boasted a glorious history that began as long ago as the year 1678; in 1890 the battalion was first brigaded with other South Midland Volunteer units. In that year also

Sergt. H. Bates won at Wimbledon the Queen's prize for shooting. In these years the battalion was twice reviewed at Windsor by H.M. Queen Victoria.

On the outbreak of the South African War there were four hundred volunteers for active service, but of these many were disappointed, for the War Office only called up, in all, two half companies and a small ambulance detachment.

The first service company (Captain A. D. Fleming) served in South Africa with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, from March, 1900, until April, 1901. They marched 700 miles, and were engaged with the Boers on six occasions—at Elandsfontein, Pretoria, Pienaarspoort, Diamond Hill, Edendale and Belfast; but more than from battle they suffered from hardship, exposure, fatigue, hunger and thirst. The second company, who went out later in the campaign, which had degenerated into guerilla fighting, spent most of their time holding a line of block houses in Van Reenen's Pass, and suffered much from disease and exposure. Both companies were highly complimented by their higher commands and gained for the battalion an excellent reputation. In these comparatively small detachments eight lives were lost.

The twelve years that separated the South African War from the Great War saw the building up of the sporadic amateur Volunteer movement into the great and efficient Territorial Army of 1914. The 1st Volunteer Battalion was divided into the 5th and 6th Royal Warwickshire Regiment and brigaded with the 7th and 8th Royal Warwick-

shire Regiment, which became the 143rd Brigade and part of the 48th South Midland Territorial Division. That these troops were ready, strong and efficient to reinforce the regulars in Flanders in the dark days of 1914 and 1915, when the New Armies were not yet trained, reflects undying credit on those citizen soldiers who so long had sacrificed their leisure and not a little of their money to the cause of the Volunteers and the Territorials.

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# History of the 5th Territorial Battalion, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

## CHAPTER I.

### TRENCH WARFARE.

1914—1916.

The war history of the battalion began as a matter of fact on Saturday, 2nd August, 1914, when the brigade moved to Rhyl for its customary annual training. The atmosphere was electric and full of tension. One saw what was coming and only doubted the Government having the courage and foresight to act in time. It was symptomatic that the orders to abandon the training arrived after the journey had been made to Rhyl, and that camp equipment had been diverted elsewhere, so that the one night spent there anticipated some of the discomforts of subsequent bivouacs.

Sunday was spent in waiting for train accommodation and in a tedious journey home. Then came a period of acute suspense, intensified by the now notorious effusion of a section of the Press calling on Britain to stand aside, fling honour to the winds, and make money out of a war in which the rest of Europe would bleed itself white. Perhaps this clarion call to the shopkeeper nation helped to make the issue clear. At all events in the small hours of Tuesday came the call to mobilise. Then for twelve hours, as the rank and file drifted in to their appointed places at the Drill Hall and the Midland goods yard and else-



where, there ensued a frenzied but methodical inspection of men, clothing, boots and minor details of toilet accessories until seven o'clock, when the battalion entrained for their mobilisation station at Portland, where their job consisted in taking up their allotted positions and making good the land defences of the garrison. Every detail had been worked out years in advance and kept up-to-date by annual revision and tours of inspection, in which many of the officers had taken part, thus avoiding confusion on arrival in the small hours of the morning ; though some delay was caused by finding the Verne Citadel still occupied by the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, who should have vacated them before the battalion's arrival.

The next few days were devoted to entrenching the land defences and guarding the oil tanks, wireless station and gun control post before handing over these duties to a militia battalion of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, who took longer to mobilise.

During the occupation of Portland and Weymouth some amusement was caused by one of the subalterns of the regiment being placed in charge of a captured Austrian vessel that was brought into the harbour. His naval rank was not held for long, however, as a telegram was received from the War Office, "War with Austria postponed," and the vessel was released, the war having lasted two hours and eight minutes.

On Sunday, August the 9th, after bidding farewell to their cheery hosts, the garrison gunners, the battalion entrained by night for Swindon,

where it was billeted mostly in the working class districts of the New Town and set to work to resume its interrupted training while the South Midland Division concentrated in the neighbourhood.

Another night journey on 15th/16th August landed the battalion in the small hours of the 16th at Leighton Buzzard, where they were scattered in billets among several small hamlets, with Heath and Reach as the centre. Some fell on their feet and were royally entertained by hosts and hostesses, who extended their kindness to all ranks in countless little ways, but after the homely welcome in the not always too clean artisans' dwellings of Swindon it was almost embarrassing to be properly valeted and waited on at dinner by a butler and three footmen.

The training was again continued at Heath and Reach till Friday, August the 21st, when the battalion concentrated there, a seven miles march in some cases, and then proceeded by route march towards our destination in Essex.

The weather was intensely hot, and by some vagary of the higher powers the men had been served out with full winter clothing, cardigan jackets, etc., which they wore, and one poor little lad was found crying under a hedge, enveloped in a thick vest, flannel shirt, civilian waistcoat, cardigan, tunic and pack, in a state of collapse. In a moment of rash confidence he admitted to his company commander that his object in joining the Territorial Force was to secure a couple of weeks holiday at the seaside, and he had never bargained

for the real hardships of war such as he imagined these to be. Needless to say, he was drafted to the second line at the first opportunity.

The route followed was by way of Dunstable, Hitchin, Hertford, Epping and Brentwood, some eighty miles in all, and the daily routine was similar. Each morning after going round paying billets and thanking the natives for their hospitality, there followed a long slogging route march in the heat and dust averaging some sixteen miles a day, a long stretch for men from factories, in soft condition, and they fell out by the roadside like flies at first, but march discipline and self restraint improved daily and the percentage of casualties diminished till a body of soldiers in cohesive formation finally landed at Galleywood, in Essex, some five miles from Chelmsford.

The common and the old racecourse there provided an admirable training ground, the chief difficulty being lack of water, which eventually became acute, also the liveliness of the straw in the barns.

On the 28th August the battalion was asked to volunteer for foreign service, and the response was gratifying in the extreme to the officers, who for many years past had been engaged in endeavouring to train their men up to the point where their services would be of sufficient value to be required by their country in its need.

The only other outstanding event was inoculation against typhoid, etc. With characteristic pusillanimity the authorities had introduced a conscientious objectors' clause into the regulations,

but the difficulty was overcome by making it quite clear to the men that no one who declined inoculation would stand much chance of being accepted for foreign service.

On September 9th, after inspecting the brigade, the G.O.C. South Midland, now the 48th Division, General Heath, told the troops that he hoped they would be sent out to France in six weeks, and ten days later Lord Kitchener promised that the Territorials would precede the New Army. Seven divisions were to be ready, of which four were to be selected.

On October 14th the division was inspected by H.M. the King, in Hylands Park, but the hopes thus raised were frustrated by official anxiety as to a rumoured German raid on the east coast after the fall of Antwerp.

About this date a Reserve Battalion was in course of formation, and Major P. H. Carter was nominated for the colonelcy, but obtained a reprieve at the last moment by the appointment of Sir John Barnsley to command.

On 16th October a move was made to Coggeshall, some ten miles west of Colchester, when all the Companies in turn were put through a course of trench digging instruction, and on the 27th a move was made to Tiptree, where more digging was done, this time the trenches being not for purposes of instruction, but forming part of the outer defences of London, to cover any attempted landing on the Blackwater estuary. The natives watched with stoical indifference, their warnings of impending floods unheeded, with the result

that the work on the lower levels was soon washed out, and the trenches had to be dug two or three times over on fresh sites at successively higher levels.

On 2nd November the company commands were re-arranged as follows:—

*Command.*—A Company, Capt. E. V. Jeavons (from transport, Vice-Captain Jennens to Reserve Battalion). *Subalterns.*—Lieuts. Retallack and Alabaster.

*Command.*—B Company, Capt. F. T. Clayton. *Subalterns.*—Lieuts. Watson and Simcox.

*Command.*—C Company, Capt. P. D. Bennett. *Subalterns.*—Lieuts. Robinson and Evans.

*Command.*—D Company, Capt. D. G. Lunt. *Subaltern.*—Lieut. Birch.

*Command.*—E Company, Capt. E. A. M. Bindloss. *Subalterns.*—Lieuts. Riddell\* and Gell.

*Command.*—F Company, Capt. J. Rabone. *Subalterns.*—Lieuts. Keay and Showell.

*Command.*—G Company, Capt. J. Francis. *Subalterns.*—Lieuts. Suckling and Edgington.

*Command.*—H Company, Capt. J. Seymour. *Subalterns.*—Lieuts. Saundby and Garland.†

At the same time the boys under 19 were sent back for further home service and 166 recruits came in.

From 8th to 14th November there was a course of musketry instruction by half battalions on the ranges at Mitham and Colchester, under Majors Pauli and Carter, while Lieut. Watson had 300

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\* To be Adjutant on Capt. Davies rejoining his regiment.

† Did not join.

recruits at Feering and Lieut. Suckling 200 Home Service men at Great Totham.

By the end of this period the Home Service men, mostly those who were not passed as fit for active service, and the few who had not volunteered were drafted back to Birmingham, and the battalion once more concentrated at Coggeshall.

Three new subalterns joined, Lieuts. Crosskey, D. Riddell and Brockbank, posted to E, H and F Companies respectively.

On returning to Coggeshall the reorganisation of the companies did not admit of drafting men to the identical billets they had previously occupied. The discontent this caused among the good housewives of Coggeshall was eloquent testimony to the good behaviour of the troops during their previous stay in the place.

The idea of German raids on the east coast was very much in the minds of the authorities at this time, and all arrangements were completed for an instant move to the pre-arranged stations on an alarm.

Apart from this, the news had leaked out that it would be impossible to proceed overseas before the new year, owing to shortage of ammunition and equipment and rifles, inadequate steps having been taken to provide for the necessary expansion.

Through the rain and floods training went on, covering the same ground again and again with little profit for the men and much weariness and discouragement for the regimental officers, but in spite of it all a certain amount of useful work was done and all ranks kept fit and cheery. The

commanding officer's household established at Scrips, a large house on the outskirts of the village, formed a delightful social centre, and its presence helped to combat the general feeling of staleness and impatience.

Early in February came the announcement that Lieut.-Col. A. I. Parkes was not to command on foreign service the battalion whose gradual evolution into a fighting unit he had superintended with such zealous care. To his officers, as to himself, the news came as a bitter blow, but higher authority at that time was impressed with the advantages of putting regular officers in command of territorial units as yet untried, and the decree had to be accepted loyally, whatever the personal regrets.

Command was handed over to Major A. C. Stewart, of the Guides, with temporary rank of Lieut.-Colonel.

On February 22nd a Zeppelin, circling over Coggeshall, dropped a bomb in a meadow which broke some glass in a neighbouring greenhouse.

On the 24th the battalion proceeded to Dunstable for two days' field firing in the snow.

Nothing much of interest occurred till the battalion was placed on a four company basis at the beginning of March, with the result that all the company officers had to hand over to others the men they had trained and knew and had to learn to know their new commands.

#### SERVICE OVERSEAS.

On March 22nd the battalion at a strength of

30 officers and 1,003 other ranks and 78 horses, and armed with converted obsolete Lee Metfords and heavy Maxim guns, veterans from the South African War, entrained at Braintree at 4-35 and 5-30, and proceeded by a devious journey to Southampton, where they were greeted by friends of the regiment who had penetrated the secret of their departure, and by 4 p.m. they were all embarked on the S.S. "Marguerite" for Havre, which was reached at 2 a.m. Disembarking at 7 a.m., there was a four mile march through the rain and the back streets up to the rest camp.

Le Havre,  
March 23rd—  
24th

At midnight, orders came through for an early start, and after a five o'clock breakfast, everything was packed and the transport successfully achieved the precipitous descent from the camp, and by 11-59 a.m. all were entrained and under way in fifty slackly-coupled cattle trucks, with a serio-comic little four-wheeled coach for officers at the end of them. The train bumped and jolted along for some twenty hours, and a rather jaded-looking battalion detrained at 7-30 a.m. on the 25th at Cassel, where the line battalion saw its first fighting some two hundred and forty years ago.

Cassel was a quaint old town perched on a hill rising out of the plain, and the vagaries of the intelligence directed on routes afforded ample opportunity for admiring it, as the battalion was marched up to the top of this hill and down again, instead of moving direct from the station to its destination at Terdegham, where, after a short wait in the snow, billets were allotted in various scattered farmhouses surrounded by ancient dirt.

Terdeghem,  
March 25th—  
27th



Bailleul,  
March 28th—  
31st

The next move was on the 28th to Bailleul, passing many graves of the line battalion at Meteren on the way. Thence night excursions were made to a point near Neuve Eglise, where the men were practised in trench digging by the light of enemy flares, and where occasional stray bullets could be heard.

Armentières,  
April 1st—5th

On April 1st a move was made to Armentières, then a rather battered but still existing town, full of life, and even of a certain social gaiety, and instruction in trench warfare was imparted by a battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders during the day, while at night detachments were sent for instruction into the trenches occupied by the Cameronians, where the officers had the pleasure of meeting their old adjutant, Major Hamilton, and were also set to work on digging a trench at Chapelle Armentières, designed with a view to an attack from that point on Lille.

Easter Sunday fell during the stay in Armentières, and half the battalion were billeted in the convent, where they were treated with the utmost kindness by the good nuns.

Bailleul,  
April 6th—12th

On April 6th they returned to Bailleul, and after a preliminary tour they took over the Douve trenches from the Royal Irish Fusiliers on the 12th, and settled down to the regular routine of trench warfare.

Messines,  
April 13th—16th

Neuve Eglise,  
April 17th—20th

The trenches at this point formed a salient, which was enfiladed in both directions from the German lines, which overlooked them from the opposite slopes of the Messines ridge. A considerable part of them had no parapets, and the

parapet and wiring were constantly broken down by the enemy's high explosive, to which our own gunners could make no adequate reply, owing to lack of ammunition and heavy guns. There were no real communication trenches and stores, rations, casualties and reliefs had to be moved at night across the open and along the Messines-Plœgsteerte road. Brigade orders had been issued for men to fire over the parapet and to remain up long enough to watch the effect of the fire, and until this order was cancelled on the arrival of the new G.O.C. 48th Division, General Fanshawe, on June 1st, casualties were frequent.

Messines,  
April 21st—24th

Petit Pont,  
April 25th—28th

Messines,  
April 29th—  
May 2nd

Neuve Eglise,  
May 3rd—5th

Owing to lack of men the battalion in support, after spending part of the night digging in the trenches of the next unit, used to occupy the support trenches, in which there were no shelters, until shortly before dawn, when they bivouacked on the reverse slope of Hill 63 till 6 a.m., and then withdrew to their billets round Court Drève. For four days out of thirty-two they occupied the rest huts at Jonesville, south of Neuve Eglise.

Messines,  
May 6th—12th

Petit Pont,  
May 13th—16th

Messines,  
May 17th—20th

There were a good many spies among the Belgian peasants, and parties moving at night to and from the trenches were frequently sniped. Some of the snipers were caught and dealt with.

Neuve Eglise,  
May 21st—24th

In May Major Pauli was transferred to the Record Office, and on the 29th Major Carter took his place as second in command, no regular officer being available.

Messines,  
May 25th—28th

By this time there had been several minor casualties among the officers. Lieut. Watson was sent to hospital as the result of a riding accident,

Court Drève,  
May 29th—31st     Lieut. Suckling was invalided home, Lieut. Riddell went to hospital for an operation, Capt. Seymour met with an accident when cleaning his rifle and was sent to England, and Capt. Clayton was invalided home.

Messines,  
June 1st—4th     On June 2nd and 3rd Capt. Francis and Lieut. Edgington were killed at the same spot in the front trench. The latter had distinguished himself only a week or two before by going over the top in broad daylight and bringing in a wounded sniper of his company from between the lines.

Neuve Eglise,  
June 5th—6th     On June 10th the Brigadier posted Major Franklin, a Newfoundland Territorial Officer attached for instruction to the 6th Royal Warwickshire Regiment, as second in command of this battalion.

Court Drève,  
June 7th—9th     The battalion was now 150 short of its establishment, but no reinforcements appeared to be available.

Messines,  
June 10th—11th     In June the battalion moved down to trenches by St. Yves, which were deep and quiet and uneventful, then to those opposite Ploegsteert village. These latter were within 45 metres of the Germans, so that there was little or no shelling, the chief annoyance being trench mortars and rifle fire, also enemy mines, which were detected underneath our own.

Romarin,  
June 12th—14th     Here the 7th Norfolks were attached for instruction to this battalion of two months veterans. Here also the first experiments in patrolling and in bombing were made by Lieut. H. L. R. Groan and others, and for a short time the eighteenth century practice of a grenadier company was revived.

St. Yves,  
June 16th—19th    

Ploegsteert,  
June 20th—21st    

Ploegsteert Wood,  
June 22nd—25th

Towards the end of the month Col. Stewart was invalided home, much to everyone's regret.

On 25th June the Ploegsteert trenches were handed over and the battalion was moved to Bailleul and inspected by General Pulteney, 3rd Corps, thence by night marches on the 26th, 27th, and 28th to Vieux Berquin, Ham-en-Artois, and Auchel, in the mining district behind Loos, where they were attached to the 4th Corps of the First Army, and the time was devoted to staff tours and field training which afforded opportunities of seeing brass hats told off by bigger brass hats and otherwise added to the gaiety of nations, if not to the edification of the troops.

Bailleul,  
June 25th

Vieux Berquin,  
June 26th  
Ham-en-Artois,  
June 27th

Auchel,  
June 28th—  
July 11th

On the 3rd the battalion was inspected by Sir Douglas Haig, then Army Commander; and on the 8th by Lord Kitchener.

On the 12th July Captain G. C. Sladen, Adjutant of the 8th battalion, took over command of this battalion, with the temporary rank of Lieut.-Colonel.

A move was made to a bivouac at Heuchain, a few miles south, on July 12th, and on the 16th the battalion returned to Auchel, and the division was attached to the 7th Corps of the 2nd Army, and was held in reserve during the battle of Loos.

Heuchain,  
July 12th—15th

Auchel,  
July 16th—17th

Two days later they were entrained at Lillers for Mondicourt, where they detrained, and after a few days' bivouac in the neighbouring villages of Beauquesne and Courcelles, went on July 25th into the trenches opposite Serre. Here there was a good deal of heavy shelling. The 6th battalion relieved on the night of the 30th and the battalion

Beauquesne,  
July 18th—20th

Courcelles,  
July 21st—24th

Hébuterne,  
July 25th—29th

Bayencourt,  
July 30th—  
August 6th  
Colincamps,  
Aug. 7th—14th  
Bayencourt,  
Aug. 15th—22nd  
went into billets at Bayencourt till August 7th, when they relieved the 4th Gloucesters till August 15th, going in again from 23rd to 25th, when they were relieved by the Essex Regiment and moved to a bivouac in the Bois de Warnimont, overlooking the Authie valley.

Colincamps,  
Aug. 23rd—24th  
Bois de  
Warnimont,  
Aug. 25th—29th  
On 30th August they moved to Bus and on 2nd September into new trenches by night, taking over from the French 56th Division. A Kitchener

Bus, Aug. 30th—  
Sept. 1st.  
Foncquevillers,  
Sept. 2nd—5th  
battalion of the Bedfords came in for instruction, and the 6th Battalion relieved on the following day, September 6th, this battalion returning to Bayencourt. The trenches here formed a complete

Bayencourt,  
Sept. 6th—9th  
Foncquevillers,  
Sept. 10th—13th  
contrast to those in Flanders, being chalky and very complicated as the result of their conversion on their recent capture from the Germans. Round

Chateau-la-Haie,  
Sept. 14th—18th  
Foncquevillers,  
Sept. 18th—21st  
Serre and Hebuterne they were waterlogged and unpaved and full of recently buried corpses, flies and all sorts of abominations. At Foncquevillers, where the battalion was destined to spend the next nine months facing the gloomy fastness of Gommecourt wood, the trenches were beautifully designed and well kept, but as wet weather came on they were to prove unreliable, and most of them fell in and had to be abandoned eventually and new lines dug.

Bayencourt,  
Sept. 22nd—25th  
Foncquevillers,  
Sept. 26th—29th  
At this time the routine consisted of a turn in the trenches, then in the village of Foncquevillers, then after another turn in the trenches, in the dugouts at Brigade Headquarters at Chateau-la-Haie, then after another turn in the trenches to so-called rest at Bayencourt.

Rest for such men as were not otherwise fully

engaged on special courses of instruction consisted of route marches, endless minute inspections of their equipment and clothing, now reduced to barely decent rags, also expeditions into the Authie woods for hurdle making and work on the village defences, the organisation of which had been delegated to Major Carter by the C.R.E., 48th Division, besides unlimited scavenging and building repairs in the village.

Chateau-la-Haie,  
Sept. 30th—  
Oct. 7th

Fonquevillers,  
Oct. 8th—15th

The unit in support at Fonquevillers and La Haie spent its time in digging communication trenches between these two places, but as they were not revetted, they fell in again and again, and much time was spent in retrieving the buried trench boards and losing them again.

Bayencourt,  
Oct. 16th—23rd

Prior to our arrival at Fonquevillers the French casualties between November, 1914, and August, 1915, had only been 10, and the 169th Bavarian regiment, their opposite neighbours, had been equally peaceable; but that was soon improved, and mastery of No Man's Land obtained.

Fonquevillers,  
Oct. 24th—31st

Chateau-la-Haie,  
Nov. 1st—8th

In the autumn a German attack was anticipated, but nothing happened. The chief trouble was mud and the perpetual caving in of trenches and dug-outs. Various expedients were tried to relieve the strain. At one time reliefs took place every twenty-four hours. This was most unpopular with the company officers and the men whom the plan was designed to relieve, as it involved incessant packing up and moving to and fro. Another plan was to organise all repair work from battalion headquarters. This involved much unnecessary waste of time in marching to and from

Fonquevillers,  
Nov. 9th—16th

Bayencourt,  
Nov. 17th—24th

Fonquevillers,  
Nov. 25th—  
Dec. 2nd

the place of assembly, and when the organisation of the company work was restored to company commanders, the men worked far better under their own officers and on their own trenches.

Chateau-la-Haie,  
Dec. 3rd—10th

Eventually the greater part of the front line was abandoned ; certain advanced posts only being held, and where possible, communication trenches to each post being kept open while the remainder of the front line was filled up with barbed wire ; but before this plan was adopted, the task of keeping the trenches up with depleted numbers had become almost hopeless. They had developed into rivers of mud, the banks of which were always falling in, and the only plan was to push the semi-fluid mass down to the lowest points, where holes were cut in the parapet to discharge it.

Fonquevillers,  
Dec. 11th—18th

Bayencourt,  
Dec. 19th—26th

Fonquevillers,  
Dec. 27th—Jan.  
3rd, 1916

Meantime successive drafts of cheery Ulstermen, Liverpools and Manchesters were sent in to receive instruction and share the unequal struggle ; and it was not till December that Col. Sladen's scheme of holding an outpost line in depth was adopted by the Divisional Commander. This plan was ultimately adopted by the Army and copied by the Germans.

Chateau-la-Haie,  
Jan. 4th—11th

Fonquevillers,  
Jan. 12th—19th

As the winter progressed, the system became more methodical. Each of the front line posts was held by a platoon for 24 hours in turn. The centre posts, " Livery Street," " Hagley Road," " Long Sap," and " Short Sap," were generally quiet, but the right and left posts, " Cherry Street " and " Leicester Square," began to be persecuted by a German heavy trench mortar, or " Minnie," and then by " oil drums," discharged from some

large home-made catapult. They were filled with explosives and scrap iron of all kinds, one "dud" being found loaded with gramophone needles. Right Company headquarters became their favourite target. This had been a dangerous area for some time. As early as November 30th, Lieut. J. W. Hudson had been shot dead there, coming out of the dug-out.

Bayencourt,  
Jan. 20th—27th

Fonquevillers,  
Jan. 28th—  
Feb. 4th

The battalion was lucky in being out at Bayencourt for Christmas, which was celebrated with due rejoicings. Presents were received from the citizens of Birmingham and special food and drink were bought in Doullens, the nearest town. The Division had now established a Pierrot show, composed of soldiers, who performed under the name of "The Curios," and were a never-failing source of pleasure for the rest of the war. The Brigade also ran a cinema at Bayencourt, and for the last few months boasted a troupe of Pierrots of their own.

Chateau-la-Haie,  
Feb. 5th

Fonquevillers  
(Left Section),  
Feb. 13th—20th

A certain amount of reorganisation also took place about the end of 1915. The Machine Gunners were withdrawn from the battalions and formed into Brigade Machine Gun Companies, armed with Vickers guns. Battalions, in compensation, were slowly supplied with Lewis automatic guns. Two of these were the pride of the 5th, in January, 1916. Steel helmets also came into use, being supplied at first for front line sentries only. They were very unpopular until they had given proof of their value by saving several lines.

Bayencourt,  
Feb. 21st—26th

Fonquevillers,  
Feb. 29th—  
Mar. 7th

In February the line began to "liven up." A group of German guns, usually referred to as the

Chateau-la-Haie,  
March 8th—15th



"Travelling Circus," visited the front, and with sudden bursts of fire scored hits on the Brigade baths at Foncquevillers and on a platoon lined up in Thorp Street at tea-time. But more interest still was taken in a raid which was to be attempted on Gommecourt wood. Raids were then new and experimental. From a large number of volunteers a hundred and twenty men were chosen, and organised by Captain Watson, for the undertaking. Minute arrangements were made for every possible circumstance. There were wire-cutters, bombers and bayonet-men, Lewis guns to cover the flanks, supports and reserves, men with ladders and men with wire to block the German trenches; there were signallers with telephones, and scouts who laid a line of tape to the point of entry. All of these parties rehearsed their exact positions and duties at the Chateau, over a section of the reserve line, similar to the objective in Gommecourt wood.

The first attempt was abandoned, as the chosen night was too foggy and the possibility of losing the way too great.

Then for a month the battalion moved a little to the left and occupied a more active sector, where less attention could be given to Capt. Watson's party, and where heavy snowfalls made the ground difficult for patrolling. The enemy made two successful raids, after heavy bombardment, on other battalions of the Division, before circumstances were favourable again. At last, on March 23rd, the anniversary of the battalion's landing in France, all was ready. An old trench was reopened up to Short Sap, a new shelter

Foncquevillers,  
Mar. 16th—23rd

trench was dug in No Man's Land in front of it, and the raiding party moved out. Under cover of a bombardment they reached the German wire and cut through the first belt in three minutes. Behind it a second belt took twenty minutes to pass. A German sentry group was now firing at 40 yards range into the thick mass of attackers crowded into the narrow lane through the wire. The wire-cutters were then confronted with a new belt of wire in front of the trench and netting spread over the trench to keep out bombs. These had been invisible from our lines.

The enemy were now thoroughly alarmed and their counter-bombardment had begun. Machine guns from the flanks were firing on the raiders, and a decision was made to withdraw. The whole party retired to the shelter trench in perfect order, taking with them all their casualties and all the equipment, not even forgetting the 400 yards of tape that marked their way. When the bombardment ceased, they went back to Foncquevillers.

Though the raid had not succeeded, it had been a very severe test, under which all ranks had behaved with remarkable coolness. Souastre had now taken the place of Bayencourt as the position of the Reserve Battalion, and here the 5th went on April 26th, having been relieved by the 8th Worcesters. The Warwickshire Brigade had held this sector for eight months without relief. Two battalions had always been in the line, and the others had never been out of range of the German field guns. Though there had been comparatively few casualties, there had been a severe winter,

Souastre,  
Mar. 24th—31st

Foncquevillers,  
April 1st—8th

Chateau-la-Haie  
April 9th—16th

and the strain of being so long face to face with the enemy was not slight.

Foncquevillers,  
April 17th—25th      Before going out to rest they spent two days in bivouacs near Sailly-au-bois, and went up by night to dig a cable trench at Hébuterne. The six miles marching and the night's heavy work were very trying, and everyone was devoutly thankful to march back to Authie on the 8th.

Souastre,  
April 26th—  
May 5th

“The Dell,”  
Sailly, May 6th  
—7th      On May 11th the Brigade marched on again 12 miles on a hot, dry, spring day to Gézaincourt, where three weeks were to be spent in rest and training. On the march they were inspected by the Corps Commander.

Authie,  
May 8th—11th

## CHAPTER II.

### THE BATTLES OF THE SOMME.

1916—1917.

Training began at Gézaincourt on the 12th of Gézaincourt,  
May 11th—25th,  
1916 May. It was pretty country, with apple orchards growing over chalk downs, as they do in Kent. In May even route marches and instructional parades were not unpleasant. A first rate Boxing Competition was arranged, and the Brigade inter-Company Football Competition for General James' Cup was played out. B Company of the 5th was only beaten in the final round. After a few days, training became more strenuous and long marches and difficult schemes of open fighting practised. Preparations were now being made for the Battle of the Somme, which it was hoped would break the German line in a few days.

Trench mortars were being rapidly developed, Couin,  
May 25th and demonstrations were given in their use. A most unfortunate accident occurred on the 22nd, when two men were killed and two injured by a Authie,  
May 26th premature explosion during a demonstration of the new Stokes guns before the whole Brigade. The victims were buried at Gézaincourt with full military honours. From the 25th to the 27th Gézaincourt,  
May 27th—30th Brigade manœuvres were held, and then four more days spent at Gézaincourt. On the last day of May the battalion marched up to Couin. Couin,  
May 31st

Hébuterne,  
June 1st—8th

The 4th Gloucesters were relieved next morning in Hébuterne in front of the cable trench that had given such trouble.

The trenches were good, but troubled by minenwerfers, and seven or eight hundred yards from the enemy.

Successive forward lines had been dug to reduce this distance and get inside the efficient trench mortar range, but "No Man's Land" was still much too wide. The 66th Regiment opposite was much more active on patrol than any German troops they had previously met.

So after several days of moderate quiet the 5th and 6th moved out into "No Man's Land" on the night of the 6th June, and started to dig and wire a new front line, consisting of six posts at the head of long saps. A German patrol was encountered and driven off, leaving a hat in their flight, marked with the number of the regiment and confirming the presence of the 66th. Several rapid bursts of gunfire interfered with the digging, causing several casualties, among whom were the Adjutant (Lieut. E. P. Q. Carter, wounded) and Lieut. E. C. Wroth (wounded). Under fire, the rate of progress underground was marvellous.

Sailly-au-bois.  
"The Dell,"  
June 8th—12th

These new posts attracted much attention from the "Minnie" next day, but were successfully finished. On the 8th the battalion was relieved and marched back to bivouac at "The Dell," a valley three or four miles from Hébuterne.

Plans for the great battle were now being rapidly completed. Hidden batteries lay in every copse and farm; troops were brought up and the

line held in great depth. The village of Hébuterne faced an unimportant sector of German line, between the two fortresses of Serre and Gommecourt. It was the unfortunate rôle of the 5th and 7th to hold Hébuterne and—not to attack, but to draw on themselves as much attention as possible in order to lighten the task of those advancing on the north and south. The 6th and 8th were attached to the 4th Division at Serre, and would advance with its leading battalions. There was a busy fortnight of work and preparation, spent mostly at a camp in the beautiful park of Couin. On the 22nd the 5th relieved the Royal Berkshires in Hébuterne again. Preliminary bombardment began on the 24th. German retaliation was no mean effort. Smoke and gas were loosed off from the front line on two occasions during the week, not without a hearty response.

Couin,  
June 13th—21st

Hébuterne,  
June 22nd—  
July 4th

But the most trying work was a nightly raid on a certain point in the German line. Capt. Watson led a party to the enemy's wire, which was being destroyed with bangalore torpedoes, when the raiding party was repulsed by a counter-attack from the flank. The next night the same party repeated the attempt with similar fortune, but held a Lewis gun in reserve, with which heavy casualties were inflicted on the Germans, as they issued from their trenches to counter-attack. The point of entry was now so well guarded that a successful raid was impossible, but in order to mislead the enemy with spurious activity, a party of B Company was vainly sent there the next night and parties from other battalions on succeeding nights.

Though many of the best men of the battalion were hit in these apparently fruitless efforts, they were not fruitless to the army, for a strong artillery concentration was made against Hébuterne, and the 2nd Guards Reserve Division, the only unlocated division of the German army, was brought into the line opposite Hébuterne. The weather was bad, and July 1st dawned damp and misty. The barrage began at 6-30 a.m. with an intensity that was quite unparalleled. A smoke barrage was loosed off on the battalion front just before zero, to prevent the German guns at Gommecourt observing and enfilading the troops advancing towards Serre. At 7-30 a.m., on a front of 25 miles, the British and French went "over the top."

The 5th in their trenches could see the London Scottish advancing on the left and vanishing into the smoke. The enemy's bombardment grew more and more severe. The throwers of smoke bombs in the front line lost heavily. There seemed no more news. At last, in the middle of the afternoon a German counter-attack could be seen assembling out of range, behind their lines. The guns were slow to open fire on it. By 4 p.m. all the British were driven back to their own lines. The 8th Corps lost 15,000 men that day and not a German trench remained in their hands.

The battalion remained in the line, which gradually quieted to its usual state. An informal armistice was arranged by a Prussian Guards officer to bring in the wounded. Then came normal trench routine. As far as they knew, the Battle of the Somme had failed. The 5th and

7th were relieved on the 4th, after 13 days of continuous shell fire. It was a great tribute to the principle of holding the line as an outpost position that there had only been 75 casualties in the 5th battalion in the whole period, while the Londoners, on the left, held their line strongly and lost 300 men in three days. But there was a sterner test to come. The battalion moved back to bivouac in a green valley near Couin,<sup>Couin,  
July 5th—13th</sup> from whence every day large working parties marched up seven miles to the line. The front was quiet enough at Hébuterne again, but the march alone was a great strain to fatigued men. On alternate days a little training was done, and on the 8th the remnants of the Brigade were reviewed and very warmly thanked by Lieut.-General Hunter-Weston, commanding the 8th Corps. The 6th and 8th Battalions, which had been almost annihilated in their gallant attack on the Serre ridge, were naturally the heroes of the day.

But on the 13th, when almost the whole strength of the battalion had been away at Hébuterne since dawn, orders were suddenly received to move south by motor bus to where the battle was still being fiercely contested.

The weary men as they came back to camp had to hustle and pack kit and equipment, and by 3-30 p.m. the column was on the move. Near Bouzincourt, fifteen miles to the south, they "de-bussed" and halted till dark in a field, beside which an endless procession of guns, prisoners, and troops passed up and down the main road. Cavalry were being moved up to be used to-morrow in the great attack of the 4th Army.



At dusk the battalion marched off, through the ruins of Albert, where the famous golden Madonna hung horizontally from the shattered church tower. In a field beyond the town packs were dumped and the stores and transport remained. On the main Bapaume road traffic was badly crowded, and by the time the newly-captured village of La Boisselle was reached, it was almost impossible to keep "touch." The village and all other landmarks had been abolished by shell fire; the ground was a tangled waste of wire, and craters, and crumbled chalk, strewn with corpses and rubbish. With great difficulty, as a few heavy shells were falling, the companies found shelter in the maze of broken trenches and, for the first time, in German dug-outs. For two days they remained here; food was scarce; drinking water was almost unobtainable; there was very little shelter from the drizzling rain; the position of the front line and of the enemy was very obscure; and there was a continual bombardment, especially with gas shells.

La Boisselle,  
July 13th—15th

At 9 p.m. on July 15th orders were issued for an attack against the left flank and rear of the village of Ovillers, which was held by a battalion of the 3rd Prussian Guards Division. The 4th Army had bitten a great salient into the German lines, and the 5th Army was now pressing northward to cover its left flank by taking the ridge from Mouquet Farm to Thiepval. The first obstacle on the way was the village of Ovillers, which had resisted front and flank attacks for a fortnight, but was now seriously threatened by the 7th



Ovillers,  
July 16th—18th

Royal Warwickshire Regiment, who had taken a position known variously as Worcester or Sickie Trench the day before. The 5th had to assemble where Sickie Trench crossed the Bapaume road, at least two hours' march away, and advance 950 yards over entirely unknown ground, by night, to seize the cross roads at the rear of a strongly-fortified position held by first-class troops. Zero was at 3 a.m. No one had got much rest in the last three days, and no company strength exceeded 100 rifles. It is not easy for tired men to carry heavy loads of bombs, Lewis guns, and ammunition, through narrow trenches in the dark; it is less easy still when the trenches are choked with all the débris of a fortnight's battle, when it is a dark night, and when they are unmarked and unsurveyed.

At last the "jumping-off place" was reached.

The barrage was already thumping along the objective across the valley. The trench which was to have marked the battalion's left flank was found to be non-existent. With much difficulty, companies were formed up—in half-platoons—A and B in front, C in support, and D in reserve, and moved off across No Man's Land.

They reached the road from Ovillers to Mouquet Farm unobserved. The trench beside it was unrecognisable at that point, and half the two leading companies, being suddenly fired on by a machine gun from the village, went on and occupied the next trench, the German second line, which they took exactly in reverse. The garrison fled as they approached.

During the night the battalion was reorganised

and consolidated without opposition : B Company in the foremost trench, A Company in the shallow battered ditch beside the road, C and D in the third, a long winding communication trench that led towards Pozières. The congestion in this trench was so great that many men were sent back to Sickie Trench. On the morning of the 16th the situation looked bad. Close range sniping from the left became serious, especially to A Company (Capt. C. V. Suckling, killed), which lost all its officers, and was then commanded most ably by Company Sergt.-Major Townley ; and a series of counter-attacks by bombing developed along the trenches from the right. C Company (Capt. G S. Lunt, killed) lost all its officers and all its platoon sergeants, and the trench was held against five or six attacks by a party including Lieut.-Col. Sladen, the O.C. D Company (Capt. W. C. C. Gell), and one junior sergeant (Sergt. C. Steane). The trenches were held and A, C and D Companies were relieved on the night of the 16th—17th.

Ovillers,  
July 16th—18th

B Company, which was now left in position under the Commanding Officer, had enjoyed an easier time. Entirely isolated by day, they had repulsed one heavy attack and were then left in peace, covered by a slow barrage from our guns. On the 17th the trench was still full of wounded, and all ranks suffered severely from thirst, for a water-carrying party had gone astray and been dealt with by the enemy. Volunteers were sent over the top to bring water for the wounded. On that day the German garrison of Ovillers, now

quite cut off from supplies, surrendered, and B Company was relieved by the 6th Royal Warwickshire Regiment, which advanced and cleared the village.

Albert, Red  
House Bivouacs,  
July 17th—19th

The 5th then reunited to bivouac just outside Albert and received the thanks of the Corps Commander. With astonishing good fortune they had only 140 casualties, about 30 per cent. of those who had gone over the top.

This luck did not desert them for the next night ; the battalion had to dig a trench along the Bapaume road towards Pozières, and did so at the cost of one man wounded, while the 8th Worcesters, on a similar job 200 yards away across the road, lost 300 men by bombardment with shells containing a new kind of gas—Phosgene—against which we had no protection at that time.

Bouzincourt,  
July 19th—22nd

After two nights' rest in billets at Bouzincourt, a short march back, the battalion went up to Ovillers again. The village was fairly well consolidated now and the German dug-outs in the old front line quite habitable.

Pozières,  
July 23rd—24th

On Sunday, July 23rd, efforts were made to join up with the 1st Australian Division in the outskirts of Pozières. The enemy bombarded the whole valley heavily and continuously, without preventing the battalion moving forward into Sickie Trench, and the communicating trenches north and east of it. A Company (Lieut. H. L. Groom, M.C.) provided the attacking party, which cleared the way until held up by a strong "bomb stop" just in front of the Pozières line of defence. After several costly attempts, it was decided that

this redoubt could not be taken by bombing, and Stokes guns were brought up to reduce it. But at that time they were not very well understood, and they were unable to destroy the barricade. At last, arrangements were made to relieve the 5th, which had been under severe bombardment all day, and a company of the 7th Battalion rushed and captured the "bombstop"—over the top—as the 5th had recommended.

Two more miserable days were spent in bivouac at Usna Redoubt, and then the battalion was moved back to rest at Coulonvillers, eight miles from Abbeville.

Usna Redoubt,  
July 25th—27th

The weather now became bright and sunny at last, and good billets made life a pleasure again. A large reinforcement from the disbanded Hunts Cyclists came up the line, and great efforts were made to reorganise in accordance with the lessons learnt in a month's fighting. Parades were held very early in the morning, and a large number of all ranks of the battalion visited Abbeville in the afternoons. It was the first time for a year that they had been billeted near to any considerable town. An open-air cinema performed in the village in the warm evenings that followed long, hot, lazy days.

Coulonvillers,  
July 27th—  
Aug. 9th

On August the 9th the fortnight's holiday was over and the return to the battlefield began. There were four long and trying marches this time, with a halt from the 10th to the 14th at Arquevres to attend a demonstration of bomb and trench mortar tactics. No one will forget the arrival in this village after 12 miles of hot sun and dusty

Longuevillette,  
Aug. 10th

Arquevres,  
Aug. 11th

Varennnes,  
Aug. 14th

Bouzin-court,  
Aug. 15th

road to find that our predecessors, the Guards, had drunk the village dry.

On the 16th Ovillers was reached and "taken over" from the 6th Gloucesters. Orders were soon issued for another attack. The 5th Army was still pushing northwards trench by trench, widening the breach in the German lines. The next difficulty to surmount was the Leipzig Redoubt lying between Ovillers and Thiepval. This was to be attacked by the 5th and 6th Royal Warwickshire Regiments, covered by what was then a new invention—a creeping barrage.

Ovillers-Leipzig  
Redoubt,  
Aug. 18th—20th

At 5 p.m. on August the 18th eighteen batteries opened fire on the Brigade front. The 5th and 6th at once went over the top and the 7th supported them with a bombing attack on the left flank. It was a very new thing to advance under such a curtain of fire and with such a small frontage. A Company formed the first wave and followed so close on the barrage that they reached the first German trench without a shot being fired against them. B Company and two platoons of C Company then passed through and went on to the second objective. The attack was carried out with the precision of a field day. 250 Germans were trapped in their deep dug-outs and forced to surrender without striking a blow. A whole company, with its officers and two machine guns, was taken complete in one huge dug-out in the second objective. Many more of the enemy were killed in the trenches.

Such a victory at a cost of only 100 casualties to the attackers was then unknown on the Western

front. The Army Commander, General Gough, the Corps Commander, General Jacob, and General Birdwood, of the Anzac Corps, all watched the advance from a hill near Bouzincourt, and all sent their congratulations to the Warwickshire Brigade.

The difficulty had been to hold the men back, and many who should have remained behind had gone forward to the farthest objective, from which the famous entrenched position of Thiepval was at last visible, so that the night was spent in reorganisation and consolidation of the position. At dusk a counter-attack was made by the enemy and broken by our rifle and Lewis gun fire. This was a great stimulant to the confidence of all, for the battalion held on without the help of the artillery.

In the course of the day's fighting all the officers of A Company had been disabled, and for the second time in five weeks C.S.M. Townley was left in command.

All through the night and the next morning bombing parties were pushed out to get in touch with the enemy and win as much ground as possible. The work of B and C Companies in this direction, for they added another trench system to the day's gains, was circulated through the army as an example to other units.

Not the least of the triumphs of this enterprise was the delivery by an astonished German carrying party to a cold English sentry group in the morning of an excellent German ration of hot coffee. The surprise of the Boches at finding Englishmen there was only equalled by the surprise of the



English at being served with breakfast by a German again.

Bouzincourt  
Bivouac,  
Aug. 20th—22nd

Ovillers  
Skyline Trench,  
Aug. 22nd—24th

On the evening of the 20th the battalion was relieved by the 6th Gloucesters and marched out, to bivouac near Bouzincourt, led by a band improvised from German instruments. But after only two days of rest and celebration came another tour at Ovillers. This time it was only to hold Skyline Trench, the crest of the ridge running from the Leipzig Redoubt to a point near Mouquet Farm, whence it was continued by the Australians round to Pozières. C and A Companies held the front line and underwent by far the heaviest bombardment experienced at that time. Skyline was shelled night and day with all calibres up to 11 in. through the whole period that the battalion knew it. The ground was so broken that parties moving along the trench could wander out of it into No Man's Land without noticing the difference. Continual damp, steamy weather did not make it any sweeter. Unburied bodies, some six weeks old, were lying out. Even where shells were not falling life was made unbearable by the flies. The forward companies made their headquarters in a Boche dug-out, whose eastward entrance was a direct target for hostile fire. It was twice set on fire by bursting shells. To climb up its ruined shaft one had to grip and hold by the leg of a half-buried German. In there was the only shelter from the damp and from the steadily falling shells.

Ovillers Post,  
Aug. 25th—28th

On the 24th these companies went back to the old front line, and after two more days of flies

and bombardment and nights of work in the trenches, the remainder joined them. On the morning of the 28th the battalion marched back to Varennes, not sorry to see the last of Ovillers.

Varennes,  
Aug. 28th

Next day the march was continued to a camp in the Bois de Warnimont, a pleasantly-situated wood overlooking the valley of the Authie, its crops and orchards making a very striking contrast with the villages along the Ancre, where the last weeks had been spent. Better still were the good billets in Sarton, four miles further west, to which the battalion moved on September the 2nd.

Bois de Warnimont, Aug. 29th  
—Sept. 1st

Sarton,  
Sept. 2nd—11th

Here strenuous training began again, and the Army Commander and the Divisional Commander held inspections. Great efforts were made to reduce the number of recruits of poor physique who were beginning to come in larger numbers under the Military Service Act.

On the 4th the Brigade suffered a great loss by the departure of Brigadier-General J. Dent, D.S.O., who had been in command with such success through all the operations of the summer. The 5th battalion were compensated by the fact that Lieut.-Col. G. C. Sladen, D.S.O., M.C., now assumed command of the Brigade. He had commanded the battalion for over a year, in which very striking achievements had been made. His personal leadership on July 16th, when Battalion Headquarters was in the thick of the fighting, were never forgotten by the rank and file. Major C. Retallack then assumed command of the battalion.

After a week at Sarton, the Brigade moved in artillery formation across country to Gézaincourt,

Gézaincourt,  
Sept. 11th—17th

making a tactical exercise of the move. Another pleasant week was spent in these old quarters where they had been in May. It was here that the almost incredible news came through of the first use of "tanks," and the taking of many strong positions, including Mouquet Farm, the old obstacle.

Heuzecourt,  
Sept. 18th—  
28th

On the 18th came another move. After 12 miles march in pouring rain, the battalion settled for ten days in Heuzecourt, a pretty village right away from the main roads and all signs of war. Training in open fighting and hard field days, punctuated with battalion drill, were the days' parades, and some football was played. As there were no canteens near, a canteen was opened as a private enterprise by B Company, and this, in official hands, was an invaluable asset for the rest of the war.

Halloy,  
Sept. 29th

Souastre,  
Sept. 30th

Hébuterne,  
Oct. 1st—5th

This period of rest had lasted five weeks, and the autumn rains were setting in, when a new undertaking came into view. Two marches brought the division back to the Gommecourt area, and the 5th went up from Souastre again to relieve the 2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in Foncquevillers. The attack from here on July 1st had been wholly unsuccessful, and the salient of Gommecourt Park was still the westernmost point of the German line in France. Another full dress assault was to be made on it, and the point of the salient was to fall to the lot of the 5th. Never had morale been so high; never had all ranks felt so confident before a very stiff fight. But after much hard work and careful rehearsal, and after a tour in familiar trenches from October

1st to the 6th, the attack was suddenly cancelled. It had apparently been no more than a feint.

Then came a few more days of uncertainty at St. Amand, Oct. 6th—19th  
St. Amand and Grand Rullecourt, a little further north, till on the 25th the battalion was suddenly moved down by motor bus to the Somme battle-field again and billeted at Franvillers, near Albert. Gd. Rullecourt, Oct. 20th—24th  
Franvillers, Oct. 25th.  
The next day they marched up to Bécourt, a bad camp, well churned into mud. For a fortnight Bécourt, Oct. 26th  
they were employed road-making in the re-captured Mametz Wood, Oct. 28th—31st  
area, moving three times to different camps. The Bécourt, Nov. 1st  
cursed name of Mametz wood, where the weather, Contalmaison, Nov. 2nd—8th  
the accommodation, the hours of work, and the attentions of the enemy vied with each other to make life miserable, will not be forgotten. It came almost as a relief when the bad system of outposts covering the Le Sars salient were taken over from the 4th Gloucesters on November 9th. Le Sars, Nov. 9th—10th  
The 4th Army had now recovered the whole of the high ground round Pozières, and were holding well down into the valley beyond.

The village of Le Sars lay at the foot of that forward slope looking up to the next ridge, crowned by Loupart Wood, and beyond that to the roof tops of Bapaume. The main road from Albert ran straight as an arrow through the village, and then passed that curious prehistoric burial mound, the Butte of Warlencourt, a round dome of chalk fifty feet high. It was a gunner's paradise : both sides could observe from the slopes well back, the British from Martinpuich and High Wood, the Boches from Loupart Wood. Martinpuich, Nov. 11th—13th  
Contalmaison Villa Camp, Nov. 14th—18th

The Boches could also snipe from the Butte Contalmaison Pioneer Campd, Nov. 19th—23rd

at close range, whereas all doubtful British guns could use it for an aiming-mark. Le Sars, in its projecting angle and low lying in its swamps, was always under fire. German guns could fire from Miraumont into it almost from the rear : German snipers from the Butte could shoot into the shafts of its reversed dug-outs ; while British guns firing down a forward slope grazed it continually, and never could be sure of clearing our own lines.

Le Sars,  
Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>—27<sup>th</sup>

Martinpuich,  
Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>—  
Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>

No movement was safe by day two miles back ; the advanced posts out in the mud on those December nights could not move much even in the dark. November 13<sup>th</sup> had seen the last attack of the year, the battalion had then watched the unfortunate 50<sup>th</sup> Division struggle heroically through feet of mud, but it had been humanly impossible to take and hold the Butte. The 48<sup>th</sup> Division held the salient for six weeks. The weather was at its worst, and though there were no heavy engagements with the enemy, the strength of the Division fell from 9,000 to 6,000 rifles. The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion did three tours, holding the village itself. A relief was nothing but a nightmare. The Bapaume road, the only metalled road there was, was a death trap from shell-fire, it needed super-human strength to carry supplies over the craters on either side. When it was raining they were thigh deep in slime ; when it was fine the mud set into a porridge that clogged the feet and plucked the gum boots off them. And always the Butte loomed up pale and ghostly in the night, an ominous white mound by day. It became legendary ; men said the shells bounced off its

Contalmaison  
Scots' Redoubt  
Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>—5<sup>th</sup>

Le Sars,  
Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>—7<sup>th</sup>  
Martinpuich,  
Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>—9<sup>th</sup>

Contalmaison,,  
Scots' Redoubt,  
Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>—13<sup>th</sup>

invincible sides, and that it was honeycombed with concrete observation posts and emplacements. Each company was exhausted after two days in the front line, but supports in 26th Avenue and reserves in Martinpuich were little better off. Divisional reserve in one of the hutted camps right back at Contalmaison was the only real rest. There the "Curios" opened a new season and diverted many overstrained nerves. From Le Sars went back the last batch of men, on leave, who had come out in March, 1915, and served with the battalion since. A shell exploded among them on their way down, and at least one never reached his home. The Sunken Road at Le Sars gained the worst reputation of all dangerous localities known to the battalion. At the end of the last tour, on December 9th, 200 men could not be raised for a working party; the few available were at the end of their tether. In spite of all precautions, socks being changed daily and feet rubbed twice a day, "trench foot" broke out and could not be prevented.

The Division was relieved by the 15th Division on December the 15th and moved back to Albert exhausted. Albert,  
Dec. 14th—28th

Christmas was spent in Albert. The town was full of soldiers, and now a few civilians had come back. There were a picture show and two or three cafés and a few shops besides the Expeditionary Force canteens. Though the Boches sent over an occasional long range shell, no one minded very much. The canteens were hung with Christmas fare and decorations just like shops in

Birmingham, and all ranks succeeded in celebrating the time of year with some attempt at the usual comforts, in spite of the weather and the half-ruined billets. The official occupation at this time was road-making, but the Higher Command was merciful at Christmas, and the battalion was not over-worked.

Warloy,  
Dec. 28th, 1916

On the 28th the Brigade marched out to the 3rd Corps training area, the 5th being billeted at Warloy. The Corps Commander, General Pulteney, inspected the Brigade, which had been in his command nearly two years before at Armentières. Ten days were spent in fairly intensive training, and a draft of 80 Warwickshire Yeomanry was sent to the battalion. Then on January 8th the Division was moved right back to an area south of Abbeville. The 5th, who occupied two small villages, Sorel and Wanel, had never been so far from the line since coming to France. Marching in from the railway late at night through the snow, they came to billets that were remembered long after. Half the rumours on which men lived in bad times in the line told of chances that they might be going back to Sorel, forty miles from the war, and too far for the attentions of random Generals and A.A. and Q.M.G.'s.

Sorel,  
Jan. 8th, 1917

Meri-court-sur-  
Somme,  
Jan. 27th—30th

Such a paradise could not last for long. On the 27th the Division entrained for Meri-court-sur-Somme, and marched up to relieve the French in Sophie Trench, a support line commanding the swamps of the Somme valley in front of Péronne. The great frost of 1917 was now at its height, and the trenches were dry and clean. The French

Herbécourt,  
Jan. 31st.

had captured these positions six months before, while the battalion had been at Owillers, but they had been held up by the immensely strong line whose buttresses were the hill of La Maissonnette, on the south of the river, and the hill called Mont St. Quentin on the north. Péronne, the "Virgin Fortress," lay in a curve of the valley between them. Across the 1,000 yards of swamp and stream, the beds of rushes, and the clumps of osiers could be plainly seen the beautiful church, the stately and famous library and the ancient fortifications of the historic little town. A pretty, sleepy, country town it looked, half girdled by the river and half by its row of hills. It was too valuable to bombard. Though the Battle of the Somme had raged all round it, not a British shell had fallen in its walls since Wellington had passed that way in 1815.

Eclusier,  
Feb. 1st—4th

Biaches,  
Feb. 5th—9th

Rest billets for this area were at Eclusier, five miles back under the chalk cliffs in another curve of the river. These were occupied by the 5th from the 1st to the 4th, but on the night of the 4th—5th February, as they went up to relieve the front line between Biaches and La Maissonnette, the 6th Battalion, who were holding it, were raided after heavy bombardment by the 1st Prussian Guards, whose Divisional Commander was Prince Eitel Friedrich of Prussia. The raiding party was repulsed with loss and counter-attacked by a Company Commander, who led his men out of the trenches, and took the enemy in the flank. The 5th arrived before the line had quite calmed down after this incident.

Herbécourt,  
Feb. 10th—13th

Biaches,  
Feb. 14th—20th



Eclusier,  
Feb. 21st—26th

In accordance with the general practice of the Division, the line was "thinned out" and held as an outpost position. The enemy front line varied from 40 to 100 yards away and made patrolling almost impossible over the frozen snow. On the 10th a relief took place, the battalion going back into Brigade reserve at Willkind trench, and B Company occupying Bazincourt Farm on the back of the Somme. There was a great gap in the lines here, for the British on the north bank had only advanced as far as Clery, while the French at Biaches had got two miles farther on the south. The outpost at Bazincourt Farm was an extra precaution to prevent patrols moving along the navigable stream of the river. For the next six

Biaches,  
Feb. 27th—  
Mar. 3rd

weeks the battalion alternated between the front line at Biaches, support positions in Willkind trench and the village of Herbecourt, and Reserve positions in one or other of the hutted camps at Eclusier. At the end of February the frost had

Eclusier,  
Mar. 4th—12th

Biaches,  
Mar. 13th—17th

broken and mud again became one of the elementary facts of life. Though it was as deep, as clinging, as slimy, as persistent, as universal, as nauseating as it had been at Le Sars, it was not here accompanied by persistent shell fire, and better trenches and dug-outs made the position less appalling. Not only did the long French "boyaus," the five kilometre communication trench, Guerrier, and the lines of support and assembly collapse into rivers of mud, but the Somme, which for a few brief days had been frozen hard, now began to thaw—too soon. Rumours were being heard that the Boche was retiring. The pressure along the Ancre,

the encircling of Loupart Wood, the loss of Gommecourt, the advance round Bouchavesnes that threatened Peronne from the north, taught him that the battles of the Somme had not been fought in vain. A new line, named after the new Commander-in-Chief, Hindenburg, was getting ready before Cambrai and St. Quentin, and the retreat was hourly expected. Patrols were active all along the front. They wallowed nightly in the narrow fifty yards of No Man's Land on the Brigade front watching for the abandonment of Biaches. A special party, under Lieut. G. E. Orton-Smith, crossed the Somme on the thawing ice and examined the German village of Halle through the gap in the lines. This gallant officer was unfortunately killed in a small fighting patrol a few days later.

Meanwhile trench routine was going on. Endless efforts to hold the trenches together and stem back the rising tide of mud were made ; long hours were spent patrolling the slopes before our wire and locating and harassing the German posts, or in rest at Eclusier, parades and specialist training took place. Companies, now very weak, were re-organised in three platoons, and Lewis guns allotted to each, and the new "box respirators" were issued in place of the old "gas helmets."

During March plans were matured to attack Biaches and La Maisonnette, and speed the departing Germans, who were already holding their line much more thinly. The batteries that had driven back the French from the river bank in July, 1916, seemed to have withdrawn from St. Radegonde, a suburb of Péronne, and every night fires blazed

in the villages behind their lines. In the second week of March the Church of Péronne, which French and British shells had so carefully avoided, was burned to the ground by deliberate German incendiaries.

In the early morning of the 17th the 145th Brigade on the right attacked La Maissonnette. The 5th Royal Warwickshire Regiment, holding the line, were prepared to move if the enemy seemed to be retiring. The battalion had just completed a heavy tour in the line, and was not sorry when the operation was cancelled at 4-30 a.m. The reserve company had barely trudged back three miles to Willkind trench when the 145th Brigade found the trenches opposite unoccupied. A and D Companies of the 5th at once advanced and took possession of the strong point known as the "lozenge" and sent patrols forward to La Chapelle, a suburb of Péronne, on the south bank of the river, where they came in touch with a German rearguard and suffered some casualties. The rear companies moved up to the German front line in artillery formation, only disturbed by a few long range shells.

Péronne-la-  
Chapelle,  
Mar. 17th

The line was broken and open fighting had come at last.

That night two companies of the 8th Royal Warwickshire Regiment crossed the Somme in pontoons from Bazincourt Farm and moved as a flying column into clear country. Péronne was entered on the morning of the 18th.

Eclusier,  
Mar. 18th—20th

The Divisional Reserve, consisting of the 144th Brigade, now passed through and established

an outpost line beyond, leaving the 5th to march proudly back to rest at Eclusier. A new horror had been found in this phase of war. Several casualties were caused by "booby traps," bombs carefully concealed and arranged to explode by some quite unexpected device. The drawing of a chair up to a table, the opening of a door, the pressing on one step of a stairway, even the playing of a piano, might cause an explosion.

On the 21st the battalion spent the day road-making in Biaches, and then moved across the pontoon bridge into cellars and dug-outs at Halle. A German foot bridge blew up that day as an officer stepped on a certain loose board ; a bag hanging on a nail was found fastened so that, on being lifted down, a bundle of bombs was detonated inside it ; a gap in a hedge had a string tied across it that fired another charge. Next day at dawn a large party went up to work in Péronne, where the streets had been destroyed with mines. They entered the town as a red sunrise lit up the snow-covered gables and showed the smouldering ruins that Allied guns had so carefully spared to fall victims to wanton incendiarism. The town was placarded with notices that the enemy had intended to be mystifying and sarcastic. It was still sown with delay-action mines, of which some did not go up for weeks.

Halle,  
Mar. 21st—24th

The bridges had to be rebuilt before any large number of troops could move forward, for railhead was already awkwardly far back and the Supply Column had a very long daily round. On the 25th the battalion marched up to Mont St. Quentin,

Mont St.  
Quentin, Bussy,  
March 25th



but only stayed there a few hours before moving on to Bussu and Aizecourt-le-haut, typical examples of what the enemy could do to villages that the fighting had not touched. These must have been good German rest billets, but now not a roof was standing; not a single room gave cover from the snow. The cellars were destroyed or defiled, and the very inoffensive trees were felled in rows. Men set to and built themselves shelters, except one lucky platoon which took the vaults of the obliterated church, where coffins lay round on all the shelves. Every cross road was made impassable by a mine crater which had to be filled in, but in spite of it the 7th and 8th in front were pushing on and with the Canadian Cavalry clearing woods and villages of the German rearguards.

After another night further east still at Driencourt, the 5th moved up to relieve the outposts who were now beyond Villers Faucon. Guns in position behind the Hindenburg line could now be brought to bear on them, but there was still room for manœuvre. The present positions had been taken by cavalry, and were subject to attentions from Uhlan patrols. A detached post forward at Capron Cope covered the line of resistance, which was the front edge of Villers Faucon. It rained hard; there was plenty of bombardment; but beyond long range patrolling, nothing much else happened.

Driencourt,  
Mar. 27th

Villers Faucon,  
Mar. 28th—29th

Then the battalion was withdrawn to Tincourt Wood to prepare for an attack on Epéhy, where the enemy were reputed to be making a firm stand. It snowed nearly every day. Two companies

Bivouacs near  
Tincourt Wood,  
March 30th—  
April 1st

Grebaussart  
Wood,  
April 1st—2nd

bivouacked in a wood, two in a chalk pit which had sheltered a German balloon. Their fate was uncertain. At last, on the morning of the 1st of April, they went up to Grébaussart Wood to support the 6th, who were to make the attack. After lying out in the snow they were not required. The 6th captured the village with a few prisoners and a field gun, losing only 35 casualties. So the 5th stayed another night in Grébaussart Wood. Next day they relieved the 6th. A and D Companies occupied the cutting on the Cambrai-Roisel railway, which made a strong line of resistance. This line was fortified and wired, and sentry groups were thrown forward from it. In the daytime cavalry and infantry patrols pushed on to locate the enemy, whose guns were very active. An inter company relief was held on the 3rd, and the battalion went back into support on the 5th. While they were in Grébaussart Wood the Brigade was relieved by a Brigade of the 42nd Division and marched back to Templeux-la-Fosse, where Prince Eitel Friedrich of Prussia had been living three weeks before. From there they went back again to Cartigny, near Péronne, and spent four unhappy days in bad billets, building an Advanced Corps Headquarters. Quite insufficiently rested, they marched up to relieve the line again at Epéhy. The 42nd Division had pushed on a little further and come up against strong German posts in Petit Priel Farm and Catelet Copse. The 5th took over the line, re-organised and advanced it a little, and prepared to tackle these positions.

Epéhy,  
April 2nd—5th

Grébaussart  
Wood,  
April 6th—8th

Templeux-la-  
Fosse,  
April 9th—10th

Cartigny,  
April 10th—14th

Epéhy,  
April 15th—17th

Two days passed in the outpost line, two days of holding posts in scattered copses and farm buildings, of looking out to the Hindenburg Line that lay like a brown streak along the horizon, and of reconnoitring the lines of approach to Priel Farm.

The whole line was to advance without Artillery support at 10 p.m. on April 16th. On the battalion front A Company held the line, C and D made the attack on the copse and the farm respectively, while B was in support. As they moved up to the assembly positions in a valley running forward from Epéhy, a steady drizzle of rain began turning into sleet and then into a blizzard of snow. By zero hour everyone was wet through and chilled to the bone. It was impossible to see five yards through the dark ; sections lying out in artillery formation were completely isolated. It was a considerable success of platoon and section commanders that they reached the enemies' lines at the right place. A platoon of the left battalion blundered into C Company, and shots were exchanged in the dark before they could be recognised.

Catelet Copse and the Farm were found to be strongly wired and strongly held. The wire could not be seen, much less cut by hand, in that blackness. After several fruitless efforts the leading platoons dug themselves in and waited for daylight. The left battalion did the same. Meanwhile the whole valley, where supports, reserves, and pack ponies with ammunition had waited in the snow, was searched exhaustively and scientifi-



cally by German field guns and light trench mortars. At daylight the enemy slipped away from their positions, which were occupied by the leading companies. The operation had cost us 50 casualties. This last mile that the Germans retired on the night of the 16th—17th April was the end of the Great Retreat of 1917. The work of the 48th Division was done, and the enemy had been hustled back to the Hindenburg line faster than their programme designed. The 144th Brigade had struck against heavy resistance at Gillemont Farm on the right, a position which never passed securely into British hands for another 18 months.

Villers-Faucon,  
April 18th—20th

Marquaix,  
April 21st—29th

On the 17th the front line was relieved and on the 20th the battalion marched back to Marquaix, where ten days were spent in reserve. The eternal round of training began again, broken by one or two alarms and a sudden night march to Villers Faucon, when trouble was expected in the line. The 1st Grenadier Guards shared the village with the 5th, who beat them at football and fraternised in various other ways. On the 29th and 30th the battalion marched back to Péronne, and then to the old camp at Eclusier, where the weather changed in a day from winter to summer, and bathing in the Somme took the place of skating on it. For three days they rested on firm ground where there was no fear of booby-traps and delay action mines, and then went back to Péronne. Billets were passable there; the usual entertainments took place, and times were pleasant enough in the sunny weather. A very smart guard was mounted, which attracted great attention among

Péronne,  
April 29th

Eclusier,  
April 30th

Péronne,  
May 3rd

the other troops in the town, and every man in the battalion was put through a Lewis gun course. After a week of this the division left the 4th Army, cheered by a message of thanks from General Rawlinson, who said that "after a winter of unexampled severity in indifferent trenches, the change to open warfare found them in a high state of efficiency."

The 5th marched 10 miles to Le Transloy, Le Transloy,  
May 12th  
across the dreary Somme battlefield under a blazing sun. The men had just been inoculated, and it was a severe ordeal. The next day they went on to Frémicourt, near Bapaume, and spent Near Louverval,  
May 13th—22nd  
six weeks in this part of the line, under the Anzac Corps and the 5th Army. A wide sector of front was held by the Brigade across the Bapaume-Cambrai road and facing the Hindenburg line. There were no continuous lines of trenches this side. The front was very quiet and the enemy a mile away. As the weather was warm the Frémicourt,  
May 23rd—30th  
battalion lived mostly in the open and worked on lines of wire and dug outs. When in reserve the battalion lived in camp at Frémicourt, from which excursions could be made back to Bapaume and to an old friend—the Butte of Warlencourt, beyond it. Near Louverval,  
May 31st—June 7th

The forward area round Louverval was rolling, open country, where you could lie out and watch the Boches moving about behind the Hindenburg line. Morchies,  
June 8th—15th

Perhaps the most interesting event was a raid Near Louverval,  
June 16th—23rd  
on the 21st of June, in which two companies of the 5th took part, under command of the 8th Royal Warwickshire Regiment. A prisoner was taken

of the 2nd Guards Reserve Division, who very well remembered the 48th Division at Hébuterne a year ago, and said they were always regarded as "schrecklich" troops, men to be afraid of.

Lebucquiere,  
June 24th—30th

These positions round Louverval were almost as easy as rest billets, except for the persistent shelling of the back areas. The outposts were often the quietest places, while the villages behind Frémicourt and Beugny and the town of Bapaume were subject to the attentions of a long range gun in Bourlon Wood, that used to be known as "sizzling Cæsar."

### CHAPTER III.

#### PASSCHENDAELE.

1917.

At the end of June the coming attack in Flanders began to be talked of, till on the 30th the battalion was relieved by the 8th East Yorkshire Regiment and marched back to train. After four days at Gomiécourt, they made another hot, dry march to Berles-au-Bois, quite near to the old haunts of Souastre and Foncquevillers.

Gomiécourt,  
July 1st—3rd

Berles-au-Bois,  
July 4th—21st

Plans were disclosed for the forthcoming attack at Ypres and hard training carried out. Special practice was made in moving up over the crater area to continue the battle against further positions. The old battle-fields of 1916 were near by and convenient for this use. Not least of all that happened at Berles, the battalion which had reached the final of the divisional football competition for General Fanshawe's Cup played and drew with the 7th Worcesters.

On the 21st and 22nd they marched to Authieule and entrained for Proven, in Flanders.

The rest of the month was spent in training near the camp of St. Jans-ter-Biezen. The whole area behind the Ypres salient was packed with camps, bivouacs, horselines, and dumps, which were raided nightly from the air. The weather—pro-German as ever—was solidly wet. The pre-

St. Jans-ter-  
Biezen,  
July 22nd—30th

liminaries of the battle were not very hopeful. Another sorrow came when the final of the Fanshawe Cup was replayed and lost by the 5th.

Slaughter Wood,  
July 31st—Aug.  
6th

At last the great day dawned. The battalion had moved up the night before, through Poperinghe to Slaughter Wood, on the way to Ypres, and lay in reserve in a camp knee-deep with mud, under cascades of rain dripping from the oak trees. The drum fire of July 31st shook the ground at dawn. The 51st Division advanced, where the 48th would have to follow, and captured St. Julien, in the swamps of the Steenbeck. There the attack seemed to falter. No other troops on the flanks had got so far. The Boches had at last copied us and learnt to hold their line "in depth," and they had sown their positions thick with "pill boxes" of reinforced concrete. Thousands of prisoners were sent back, but thousands of Englishmen fell for every few hundred yards gain. Meanwhile the battalion waited—wetter and wetter—in Slaughter Wood. The C.O.

Ypres, Reigers-  
burg Camp,  
Aug. 7th

reconnoitring the line was wounded in the leg, but gallantly carried on in spite of it. At last the 10 per cent. reserve went back and the battalion moved up. From Reigersburg Camp, outside Ypres, they went on to St. Julien and took over the line from the Bucks Battalion. The Steenbeck, formerly a shallow brook, was churned by shell fire into a "slough of despond" that had been a match for several tanks, which were rusting in its slime. Beyond lay a debateable land controlled by scattered pill boxes, advanced posts from the belt of them that marked the Langemarck-Gheluvelt

St. Julien,  
Aug. 8th—10th

line. In this first tour shelling was heavy, but personal encounters only occurred with strayed Germans. A German cyclist orderly rode in one day, after losing his way, and was captured on the bridge over the Steenbeck.

Ypres Canal  
Bank,  
Aug. 11th—13th

Then came three days in dug-outs cut in the steep sides of the Yser Canal, another tour at St. Julien, and then the battalion marched back to Dambre Camp, near Vlamertinghe. Casualties had been very heavy from intense bursts of shell fire that suddenly swept the forward area. The Transport columns of pack ponies that brought supplies right up to the Steenbeck suffered severe loss.

St. Julien,  
Aug. 14th—15th  
Vlamertinghe  
Dambre Camp,  
Aug. 16th—18th

On the 19th B Company (Capt. E. Holt) went up alone to make a local attack on Hillock Farm. For the first time tanks were used with the battalion. The attack was entirely successful, the position being taken with comparatively little loss. Tanks could do little in Flanders swamps, and the credit of it lay with the infantry. B Company then returned to the canal bank.

Ypres Canal  
Bank,  
Aug. 19th—21st

The rest of the battalion went up on the 21st to take part in a general engagement. At 4-45 a.m. on August 22nd tanks were to move forward and attack the enemy in position round the pill boxes at Winnipeg and Springfield. The first wave was to follow, but succeeding waves were not to advance till these positions had been taken. The day was disastrous. C Company on the right captured the gunpits, but not a tank reached its objective, so impassable was the mud. The leading platoons of D Company went on alone into

St. Julien,  
Aug. 22nd—27th

a withering fire, and were destroyed—to a man. Six weeks later some of their bodies were found, where they had fallen, far up the slope before the Langemarck line.

In accordance with orders no more waves went forward, and many more casualties were caused by the German barrage on the men crouching in shell holes waiting for instructions. A heavy counter-attack drove back C Company for a short time, but they rallied and captured the gunpits a second time. Lieut.-Col. Retallack was now severely wounded a second time, leaving Capt. H. S. Bloomer in command.

It was found impossible to extend the positions further.

Early in the morning of the 24th the gunpits were attacked again. The enemy used liquid fire, and though the party manipulating it were all shot down, C Company was driven back after a sharp fight. Arrangements were made to take the gunpits a third time, but postponed on account of the weather, until eventually it fell to the lot of the 8th Royal Warwickshire Regiment who relieved the 5th in the line.

Poperinghe,  
August 28th

On the 29th the Brigade marched back to Tunnelling Camp, St. Jans-ter-Biezen.

St. Jans-ter-  
Biezen, Aug.  
29th—Sept. 17th

August, 1917, at St. Julien was the worst month the battalion passed through. It had been a series of impossible tasks ordered under hopeless conditions. It had seen continual attacks by weak bodies against strong bodies of troops in concrete fortresses. Communication was always precarious and altogether broke down at critical

moments. Runners and signallers had suffered fearful losses. The tanks on which all operations depended had hardly ever been able to reach the positions of assembly, much less their objectives on the other side. They could never struggle through the seas of mud.

The battalion had lost over three hundred men, including the Colonel and seven other officers, and only captured a few paltry farms and gunpits. It was little consolation that no one on the British front had done more.

Lieut.-Col. W. C. C. Gell, M.C., who had formerly been in command of D Company, now returned to the battalion as Commanding Officer.

At St. Jans-ter-Biezen the battalion was reorganised. Conferences were held to discuss the new German tactics and measures taken to meet them. The Divisional Commander presented a cup to the battalion for coming such a close second in the football competition, and took the opportunity of wishing them better luck next time in war, as in sport. General Maxse, of the 18th Corps, was indefatigable with his systems of training, and they soon regained condition.

On the 17th the battalion entrained for Nordausques, between Calais and St. Omer, where the rest of September was spent in good billets. This was a good training area. A musketry course was fired on the army range; a field firing practice was carried out; B Company represented the battalion in a field firing competition; the Brigade held an athletic sports meeting and a horse show. There were afternoons

Nordausques,  
Sept. 18th—30th



spent in St. Omer, and for the evenings the invaluable "Curios." Brigade and inter-Brigade field days were held especially to practice the attack on "pill boxes" and machine gun groups in shell holes—with rehearsals of the actual operation expected at Passchendaele.

Vlamertinghe,  
Dambre Camp,  
Sept. 31st—  
Oct. 2nd

In the night of the 30th they entrained for Vlamertinghe and went up to Dambre Camp again, to be greeted by the nightly air raids sparing no corner of the salient. The line had now struggled forward past Winnipeg and Springfield, and the British held the Langemarck line running along its low ridge. The next attack was down the slope; across the marshy stream called the Stroombeck; then up to where the positions called Winchester, Wellington, and Kronprinz Farm held the opposite slope. These so-called ridges would be unnoticeable in England, but a ten-foot rise is a hill in Flanders. The officers reconnoitred the position and laid a tape to mark the "jumping-off line." At dusk on October 3rd the Brigade moved up. On the right of the 5th were the New Zealanders; on the left were the 6th Royal Warwickshire Regiment. The attack was made in sufficient strength and under proper conditions, which made it a complete contrast with August 22nd. No tanks were employed on the Brigade front. This was the most highly organised of all attacks. Four separate and distinct barrages swept a belt of country 4,000 yards deep; seven different means of communication were used to ensure co-operation from front to rear; by runners, by "Contact" aeroplanes, by telephones, visual signals and "power

Ypres, Reigers-  
burg Camp,  
Oct. 3rd

buzzers," by messenger dogs and by carrier pigeons; all that was humanly possible had been done in the way of rehearsal, reconnaissance and preparation. A suitably loose formation was devised for dealing with hidden machine gun nests or unmasked pill boxes. Two events nearly spoilt the plan: first, the enemy in sudden alarm doubled the numbers of their front line posts; second, they opened fire with a barrage twenty minutes before zero. Rum was being issued after a bitter night of waiting at the starting point when the shelling began. The jars went round in spite of it and finished, when at six a.m. the British barrage fell. The intensity of the noise wiped out all hearing; the accuracy of the fire prevented any reply, and the battalion "went over" through the mud. They immediately encountered a belt three hundred yards deep, strewn with snipers and machine gunners in shell holes. The battle at once became a series of duels between small isolated parties. The loss in platoon and section commanders was appalling. For example, in the first half hour, in B Company every platoon commander and eleven of the twelve section commanders were hit. A sniper perched in the fuselage of a fallen aeroplane did dreadful execution on A Company, until Sergt. R. Falconer and Sergt. Dyson charged and killed him. A platoon of A Company, under Sergt. F. Oreton, was held up by another group, but eventually disposed of them with the bayonet. D Company (Capt. A. C. Bratt, killed) lost all its officers. Capt. R. S. Turner, of C Company, fell almost at the starting point.

St. Julien,  
Oct. 4th—7th



But this belt was broken through. Scores of Germans were killed: 150 surrendered, mostly from their support companies. The barrage had now moved on, and the battalion followed it. As no landmarks were recognisable, the whole line edged a little to the left. Albatross Farm, on the right, fell to the New Zealanders; B Company, on the left, strayed into the 6th battalion area and finished at Winchester. The Stroombeck was crossed under long range machine gun fire, but all the Germans in the forward area had been accounted for.

Not only had all the objectives been taken, but it would have been easy to advance further if there had been any reserves. All of the companies had come into action and were much reduced in numbers. To consolidate these gains seemed more important, for it was more difficult at Passchendaele to hold a position than to take it. No reserves were available till the 5th Gloucesters came up to exploit the success in the evening, by which time it was too late, as the enemy had reorganised as well.

The Warwickshire Brigade had done its share. All objectives had been taken and held; 450 prisoners had been taken. There had been an advance of 1,200 yards against positions held by twice their number of Germans, who had resisted long and bravely.

The 5th had taken 150 prisoners, an anti-tank gun and a number of machine guns, of which four were sent back as trophies of the fight. Their area had also contained a new and unsuspected "pill box," which was christened Warwick Castle.

But their troubles were not yet over. Less than 500 men went over the top on the 4th. Two hundred only were at duty in the evening. For three days they had to hold the line under a steadily increasing bombardment. Communication was still almost impossible. The mud was indescribable. It was some consolation that the only counter attack was dispersed by our guns and never became a serious danger. Companies were collected and sorted as far as possible, and the stretcher bearers made gallant efforts to get in the wounded. On the 7th, the front line was relieved by the 1/4th Oxforas, and the remnant of the battalion spent its last day in the jumping off positions, where burial parties were able to inter the greater number of the dead. Next evening the Brigade marched back to Irish Farm, near the canal, and then went back by easy stages to Poperinghe. From the 9th to the 13th of October the battalion rested in this gay little town, with its two soldiers' theatres, and its cafés, where the natives had survived three years of bombardments and air raids. The Corps Commander sent a message of thanks to the division, which was quickly filled with reinforcements. But no sooner had they come than a new enterprise began.

Ypres,  
Irish Farm,  
Oct 7th

Elverdinghe  
Siege Camp,  
Oct. 8th

Poperinghe,  
Oct. 9th—12th

Mont. St. Eloi,  
Oct. 13th—15th

Vimy,  
Oct. 16th—21st

There came a sudden move south, by train, to Mont St. Eloi, not far from the Vimy Ridge, now a quiet sector of line. The 5th relieved the 24th Canadians in good trenches opposite the village of Mericourt. Two tours were made of these trenches, alternating with living in huts at Neuville St. Vaast. There was little hostile

activity, and the trench routine of the old days was revived. Strenuous nights were spent revetting, draining and "pushing back the berm" of the long communication trenches in preparation for the coming winter. Working parties went up night by night from Neuville St. Vaast to struggle with the worst enemy—mud. The lines were so well ordered, the wire so good, No Man's Land so clear and wide—a good 300 yards—that the new men, many transferred from the A.S.C., could be trained safely and well. H.Q. and the Reserve Company lived in such huge dug outs in a deep chalk pit as had never been seen before, even in German trenches.

Mont St. Eloi,  
Oct. 22nd—27th

The battalion was proud here to entertain two parties of American officers sent up for instruction.

Vimy,  
Oct. 28th—Nov.  
1st

Good patrolling work was done, clearing the enemy from No Man's Land, till, as a raid was being organised that would break the pleasant slumber the Boches were enjoying on that front, a sheaf of new and startling rumours spread abroad. The Austrians had attacked far away in Italy, and had broken the Italian line. Reinforcements were to be sent from the Western Front. Also something was going to happen a few miles south. The next door division packed up one day and marched off "under sealed orders." A week later they were decimated at Cambrai. The 5th remained at Neuville St. Vaast, sending up parties night by night to work on those long trenches down from the Vimy Ridge and across the plain to Mericourt. The rumour grew stronger that the division was under orders for Italy. A

Neuville St.  
Vaast,  
Nov. 2nd—15th

Mont. St. Eloi,  
Nov. 16th—17th

battalion concert was given. The officers, in a new battalion mess, dined ceremoniously to celebrate the new adventure, which grew more certain every day.

Only the pessimists could grumble that others were fated to enjoy the comfort of those well-drained trenches, to reap the fruits that had been sown with a month's toil. That fate was fulfilled. On the 16th the Canadians returned and the battalion marched back to Mont St. Eloi. There and at Maisnil, further west, a few days were spent, refitting and practising marches and open warfare. The Divisional Commander and the Brigadier held inspections, the latter in a long-remembered speech admitting the destination of this journey.

The 5th Battalion entrained for Italy from Ligny St. Flochel in two halves. H.Q. and C. Company left at noon on November the 22nd to go by the Mont Cenis Tunnel, A, B and D Companies at 5 p.m. to go by the Riviera.

Maisnil, St. Pol,  
Nov. 18th—21st

Ligny St.  
Flochel,  
Nov. 22nd.

## CHAPTER IV.

### THE BATTALION IN ITALY.

1917—1919.

The journey south was a notable adventure. For five days the trains ran on into warmer weather and ever finer scenery. France began to show itself the country of romance, described in so many books, and not a poverty-stricken waste like Picardy and Flanders. The lines were crowded with traffic and progress was slow. Every day when the train stopped tea was made, and companies marched out for exercise or physical training. At many stations in the enthusiastic south buffets were open for the troops, managed by French residents or English visitors, and in spite of cramped quarters and a diet of iron rations, the trip remained a happy memory for most of the travellers. The inhabitants towards the end of the journey who had never seen English troops assembled in crowds, and many amusing incidents took place. Across the plains of Italy all the lines of communication were hopelessly choked with reinforcements and supply trains, which progressed only at a slow pace. At every stop games of football were organised in the nearest field, ending at times in a race down the line after the train, which had left without giving notice.



It was the morning of the 25th when the first train crossed the Frontier, 6,000 feet up among the moonlit Alps, and entered Italy.

Bovolone,  
Nov. 27th

Isola Rizza,  
Nov. 27th

St. Stefano,  
Nov. 28th

Lonigo,  
Nov. 29th—30th

The detraining station was Bovolone, a small village on the plains, not far from Verona. From here the first detachment marched to Isola Rizza, where the first night was spent in Italian billets. The inhabitants, terror-stricken by the advancing Austrians, were at first very hospitable. This seemed to be a pleasant campaign. The ground was frozen hard but it was a dry cold, tempered by sunlight in the middle of the day. Daily marches were made as far as Lonigo, a small town where the second detachment rejoined, and two days were spent.

Sossano,  
Dec. 1st.

Bosco-di-Manto,  
Dec. 2nd

Camisano,  
Dec. 3rd

Gazzo,  
Dec. 4th

Tombolo,  
Dec. 5th—10th

For five days the battalion then marched up towards the Piave front. In the whole eight marches about 63 miles were covered. This sounds little, but the question of transport was acute. The division was scattered, and the A.S.C. on the move themselves could spare few lorries for the infantry. Extra kit had to be carried almost every day, and though wagons and teams of oxen were commandeered from the farms when possible, yet on the 10 mile march from Bosco to Camisano two blankets per man had to be carried in addition to the enormous weight of the regulation kit. But the weather was dry, the roads were frozen hard, and the whole country perfectly flat, so that the marching was excellent. The Brigade rendezvous was near Cittadella, and the 5th halted at Tombolo, where the 11th Corps was being formed into a general reserve. The Austrian

attack seemed to be stayed on the line of the Piave twenty miles to the east, but there was still heavy fighting round Monte Grappa, where the line curved round to the left into the mountains. Any further advance here would turn the flank of the whole line of the Piave. The battalion stayed at Tombolo a few days, training, learning the ways of the Italians in this squalid little place, and then marched north to Pozzoleone, not far from the foot of the Alps, which rise sheer like a wall across the north of the plain of Lombardy.

Pozzoleone.  
Dec. 11th—  
Jan. 25th, 1918

This was a smaller village still, more squalid, more crowded, and shared with a brigade of Italian soldiers. The country all cut up into vineyards, and divided into acre patches by irrigation channels and hedges, was little use for training. Billets were very bad. The weather grew colder and brought rain and snow. Christmas was celebrated with the aid of extra food and drink bought in Vicenza, but it was a poor show after the Christmases in France. On January 5th the Brigade was inspected by Sir Herbert Plumer, the Commander-in-Chief in Italy. Parties of officers and N.C.O.'s went up to reconnoitre the line, and made their first acquaintance with mountain warfare.

The Italian front gradually quieted down till at the end of January the division was moved up towards the Piave, but the 5th entrained to Torreglia in the Euganean Hills, where, under the eye of G.H.Q., a fortnight's intensive training, chiefly in hill fighting, put the last polish on the battalion. In the last three months, all spent

Torreglia,  
Jan. 26th—  
Feb. 11th

Camposampiero,  
Feb. 12th

out of the line, football had been all important; inter-platoon, inter-company, and inter-battalion competitions had been held, and the 5th were again doing well for the Fanshawe Cup. In the middle of February another move was made to S. Ambrogio, and March had come before the battalion moved up by three stages to the Montello, a round hill overlooking the Piave, and the pivot of the whole Italian front.

S. Ambrogio,  
Feb. 13th—25th

Porcellengo,  
Feb. 26th—27th

Giavera,  
Feb. 28th

The Piave,  
Mar. 1st—17th

Montello,  
Mar. 8th—14th

There was no hostile activity, for the enemy were a mile away across the broad, shingly, river-bed, but the rain was continuous. The river rose and flooded the sentries off their posts on the water's edge; it still rose and flooded the pickets out of their hiding holes in the steep banks. When the relief by Italian troops came after a week of misery, companies went back into support in the ravines of the Montello; but though the weather improved, the Austrians took to sprinkling the country with shrapnel that caused a few casualties.

Giavera,  
March 15th

Villa di Villa,  
Mar. 16th—17th

Fossalta,  
Mar. 18th

Palazzo di  
Bressanui,  
Mar. 19th—22nd

Camisano,  
Mar. 23rd—  
April 1st

Montecchio,  
April 2nd

Cornedo,  
April 3rd—16th

On the 15th the division was relieved by the Italians, and set off again on apparently aimless wanderings. Five long marches, one of 15 miles, brought them back to Camisano, where company training was carried on, and at the beginning of April the battalion moved up by two marches to Cornedo at the foot of the mountains.

Here hill fighting was practised and field firing done on an open range. Detachments were sent off on working parties and reconnaissances made of the Reserve positions in the mountains. The final of the Fanshawe Cup was played off, and

the battalion having reached the last round, was again defeated by the 7th Worcesters.

On April 17th the division moved up into the hills. Two days later they reached Granezza, which was to be the centre of their activities for the rest of the war. It stood on the way to Asiago, in a country of naked rock and pine woods. The famous "plateau" of Asiago, in front, was rather a saucer-like depression surrounded by a ring of hills. The near lip of the saucer was held by the Allies, who could look down to Asiago, which was yet 3,000 feet above sea level. The other lip consisted of mountains five and six thousand feet high. Though the weather was now improving on the plains, there was continual snow up here on the plateau.

Sarcedo,  
April 17th

Mare,  
April 18th

Granezza,  
April 19th

From Granezza the Warwickshire Brigade went up to relieve a brigade of the 23rd Division in the front line. The 5th held a support line in touch with the French at Pria dell'Acqua. Companies lived in huts among the pine woods, and were little troubled by the Austrians. There was some long-range shelling, but little activity in front. No Man's Land was two miles wide, and the trenches were blasted out of the rock.

Pria dell'Acqua,  
April 20th—28th

On relief the battalion marched down to Valle, where ten strenuous days were spent mostly in working parties under pouring rain.

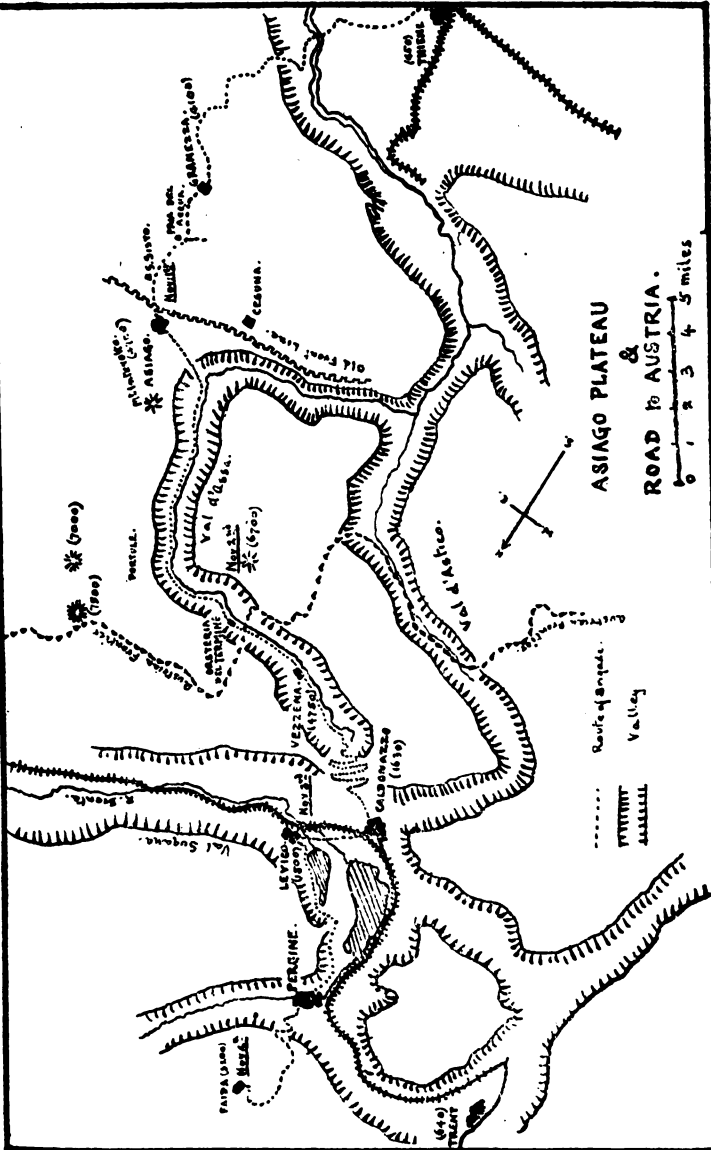
Valle,  
April 29th—  
May 8th

The second venture into the mountains came on May 9th, when they went up by Granezza and took over a section of line on Mount Torle and Mount Kaberlaba, overlooking the Asiago plateau. Aggressive operations began at once. A large

Granezza,  
May 9th

Mt. Torle,  
May 10th—16th

Granezza,  
May 17th



fighting patrol went out to Morar, a mile away, and came in contact with the enemy there.

At the end of the tour the battalion marched down to the plains, again taking five days in the journey, and spent a week in training at Arzignano. Since the weather was still bad in the hills, accommodation limited and transport very difficult, reserves were kept down on the plains when possible.

Lugo, May 18th

Sarcedo,  
May 19th

Cornedo,  
May 20th

Arzignano,  
May 21st—28th

At the end of the month the battalion was moved up by lorry to Camisino and marched up by Serona to Mount Pau behind the line. The next tour forward was near Cesuna on the left of the sector occupied in May.

Camisino,  
May 29th

Serona,  
May 30th

Mt. Pau,  
May 31st—  
June 5th

The great German attack had now been in progress for three months in France, and the 5th had noted with satisfaction that the only sector which resisted the first blow had been the Vimy Ridge, which they had fortified with so much toil the previous November. A similar attack was now expected on the Italian front. On June the 15th it came. The Austrians pressed hard against the line of the River Piave on the plains, but their main force was thrown against the two British Divisions holding the Asiago plateau. If they broke through here, they could reach the plains and cut off all that part of the Italian army that manned the Piave line: they could capture Venice and half the plain of Lombardy.

Cesuna Switch  
Line,  
June 6th—12th

Cesuna Front  
Line,  
June 13th—16th

A heavy bombardment broke out at 3 a.m. on the British front. At 7 an attack developed against D Company, who were holding the right front of the battalion. They were very weak, having lost many men from influenza and mountain

fever, and further suffered from overlooking a slope of shrubs and broken rock which could not be properly observed. B Company on the left were posted high up on a spur, where they could not be approached, but could command the whole valley. The right company was overpowered by numbers and almost all killed or made prisoner. Capt. J. B. Florance was captured before he was able to report the arrival of the enemy. So battalion H.Q. was informed from its observation post near Perghele that the Austrians were approaching them along a ravine. The adjutant (Capt. E. P. Q. Carter, M.C.) and the intelligence officer (2nd Lieut. T. L. Foode) at once went forward to reconnoitre near Perghele, where they were surrounded, the latter killed and the former made prisoner.

Capt. Watson, the acting Second in Command, organised a party and went forward to stop the gap in the lines, but was wounded after a few minutes' severe fighting. The acting Commanding Officer, Major E. A. M. Bindloss, started with a party in another direction, but was shot dead almost at once. The situation was now very critical. Regimental Sergeant-Major R. Townley, M.C., now took command of H.Q. and organised a party of 13 men, pioneers, cooks, and orderlies, and made a stubborn defence in among the huts of H.Q. The Orderly Room Sergt. was captured, but all the papers of the battalion were rescued by a miracle. This gallant party held up the Austrian attack for six hours until the 6th Battalion came up from their reserve positions.

The right front company was overrun ; Battalion Headquarters was nearly surrounded ; but the three remaining companies and the Sergt-Major's party carried on. B Company on the left inflicted enormous losses on the Austrian supports and carrying parties moving across to Perghele. The Lewis gun of No. 6 platoon fired 4,500 rounds in the course of the day. A and C Companies, ignorant of the situation, with no orders and no communications, organised the defence of the Cesuna switch line, and the Austrians never penetrated more than a few hundred yards beyond the front line. By mid-day their attack had spent its force.

The 6th Battalion coming up in the afternoon made a preliminary counter-attack at dusk, but found the enemy too strong. The night was spent in reorganisation.

At 7 a.m. the following morning a combined counter-attack was made by all four battalions of the Brigade, and the front line was entirely restored. Patrols went out into No Man's Land and drove the enemy back to their own lines, leaving in our hands two officers and a hundred and fourteen men as prisoners, besides large quantities of arms and material. Two hundred of their dead were counted in the British lines, without reckoning those who fell in No Man's Land. No less than 91 Austrian corpses were found in front of the position held by Sergt.-Major Townley and his band of thirteen men. The losses of the battalion were only 80, of whom 34 were taken by the enemy. The bulk of D Company was accounted for in this list.



Val di Maso,  
June 16th      On the whole Italian front this last and heaviest  
of Austrian attacks was repulsed in a similar manner.

Busibollo,  
June 17th—21st      The battalion was relieved that day and went  
down into support at Busibollo on the 17th for  
four days' rest.

Cesuna,  
June 22nd—25th      One more tour at Cesuna came on the 22nd.  
Lord Cavan, the Commander-in-Chief, visited the  
battalion to obtain a personal account of his  
gallant conduct from Sergt.-Major Townley. A  
raid was carried out one night on an Austrian post,  
Centrale,  
June 27th—28th      which inflicted casualties on them by bombing  
their dug-outs. But otherwise the line was quiet.  
Cornedo,  
June 29th      On the 26th the Division was relieved, and made  
the long march down to the plains by night on  
Montecchio,  
June 30th—  
July 16th      account of the heat, the 5th arriving at last in  
good billets at Montecchio Maggiore.

This was the last period of training before  
the end of the war. The Italian summer was at  
its height. Tropical kit and sun helmets had been  
issued : work was impossible in the heat of the day.  
Parades and manœuvres were carried out in the  
morning and the evening. After a comfortable  
fortnight the Division set out for the Plateau—for  
the last time, but under a new commander. For  
Major-General Sir R. Fanshawe, K.C.B., D.S.O.,  
who had commanded them for three years, had  
retired. " His intensity of purpose, his unfailing  
consideration for the men, his total disregard for  
his personal safety and comfort " had made a  
deep impression on all ranks of the Division.  
Major-General H. B. Walker succeeded him in  
command.

Mt. Kaberlaba,  
July 30th—  
Aug. 5th      On July 30th the battalion reached the front

line and took over the sector near Mount Kaberlaba.

On August 5th they were withdrawn to Malga Fassa, Aug. 5th—16th  
Fassa to prepare for a great raid that was to be brought off on the night of the 8th.

The 7th Battalion were raiding the enemy positions in Ave and Asiago, and B and C Companies of the 5th in conjunction were to tackle the Austrian front and a group of dug-outs to the right.

The companies formed up half a mile out in No Man's Land and advanced, C Company leading. The first platoon reached the enemy front line and entered it. They worked along to the right and reached the greater part of their objectives, where they took 24 prisoners. But something had gone wrong behind. The order to retire was given, and the remaining company and a half never came forward. Capt. Williams-Freeman, of the leading company, was killed, and Capt. Groom took his place, doing the utmost with the few men available, and withdrawing at 1-15 a.m., with his prisoners.

After the next relief the Brigade remained in the hills at Granezza, occupied with continual working parties. The last week in August they spent in the line again. On four nights fighting patrols went out across the mile of broken ground and engaged the enemy with rifle and Lewis gun fire. The posts of the enemy were located and preparations made for another raid, from which better fortune was expected.

All four companies moved up from their position in the support line on the night of September the 9th. At half-past eleven they were to enter the enemy's line 2,000 yards away, where it ran along

Granezza,  
Aug. 17th—22nd

Mt. Kaberlaba  
(Front line),  
Aug. 23rd—29th

Mt. Kaberlaba  
(in support),  
Aug. 30th—  
Sept. 5th

Mt. Kaberlaba  
(Front line),  
Sept. 6th—9th

Mt. Kaberlaba  
(in support),  
Sept. 8th—9th

a deep railway cutting. C Company were to work to the right, B Company to the left, and A Company were to take the centre of the position, while a platoon of D Company was to pass through and clear a group of houses at Gaiga. There was a complicated scheme of artillery co-operation.

Patrols of D Company cleared the front, and at zero the whole battalion was in position on Coda spur. The right company entered the trench under heavy machine gun fire and cleared the railway cutting to the right. After stiff hand to hand fighting with bomb and bayonet, they took ten prisoners and five machine guns, besides leaving twenty Austrians dead in the trench. The centre company was troubled by machine guns firing from emplacements out of its reach, but cleared the whole of its objectives, taking two prisoners and two machine guns, besides killing some more of the enemy.

The left company was held back by the British barrage, which was falling short of the objective, till after vain efforts to get it lifted they were forced to remain in the open and cover the left flank of the battalion.

The withdrawal was carried out in good order at 12-35 a.m. The infantry had done all their part that night, and the only slight check had not been their fault.

Granezza,  
Sept. 10th—17th

The Brigade went back next day for its week in reserve at Granezza. Before returning to the line it was reviewed by General Walker, who presented medals won in the recent raids.

Malga Fassa,  
Sept. 18th—21st

The next tour in the line was more quiet.

The short mountain summer was coming to an end : at the beginning of October bad weather set in. The battalion was moved down from Club Camp above Granezza, which suffered from continual rain and snow. The Brigade was now reorganised on the same lines as the army in France. It had been reduced to three battalions shortly before, when the 8th had returned to the French front.

Mt. Kaberlaba  
(Front line),  
Sept. 22nd—  
Oct. 3rd  
Granezza,  
Oct. 4th—11th  
Mt. Kaberlaba  
(Support),  
Oct. 12th—15th

The 5th went up the line again on the 12th, finding themselves on the left of the British front. The 48th Division was working under an Italian Corps Commander, for the other British Divisions had gone down to attack the Piave line on the plains. The 48th expected to follow them in a few days. Meanwhile they carried on with the routine of mountain warfare. Two out of several fighting patrols came in touch with parties of Austrians, attacked, and inflicted casualties on them, in one case driving them headlong in their own lines. Their last tour came on the 22nd. The experiment was made of attaching 90 Slavs, Czecho-Slovaks, and Roumanians to the battalion, escaped Austrian prisoners who preferred to fight for the Allied cause. They proceeded to entice their fellow countrymen to desert by calling to them at night. This policy brought in a few Slovak deserters.

Mt. Kaberlaba  
(Front line),  
Oct. 16th—19th

Mt. Kaberlaba  
(Support),  
Oct. 20th—21st

Mt. Kaberlaba  
(Front line),  
Oct. 22nd—27th

One night a raid made by a neighbouring French battalion brought Austrian retaliation all along the front, whereby an incendiary shell fired the huts behind the line, and much kit and equipment was burnt.

The allied attack across the Piave began on

Granezza,  
Oct. 28th—31st

the 27th, the day that the Warwickshire Brigade was relieved and marched back to Granezza, expecting to be moved at once to take its part on the plains. They soon found that there would be work for them in the mountains. At 8 a.m. on the 1st of November the battalion moved off for the last battle of the campaign. The Austrians were already breaking up and abandoning their trenches. The Piave line was abandoned: in the mountains they had retired from Asiago, and were being pressed across the plateau by the 144th and 145th Brigades. The action was becoming more and more a battle of rearguards and advance guards.

San Sisto,  
Nov. 1st

The 5th halted at San Sisto for the night, waiting and expecting that they would be sent to attack Mount Catz and Mount Interrotto on the far rim of the plateau. It was very cold, and there was still some shelling. Next morning the situation was clearer. The enemy were in full retreat, and badly disorganised. The Warwick Brigade was to pass through the 145th Brigade, who had seen some stiff fighting, and to advance up the Val d'Assa to Trento, the aim of Italian ambitions. It was then the lot of the 143rd Warwickshire Brigade to break through, to be the spear head of the 6th Italian Army.

All that day the three battalions pressed on through the narrow valley running between high mountains. There was little opposition. The 6th and 7th had the honours at first, for they cleared the mountains on either side and captured incredible quantities of material and many prisoners. The 5th marched along the road in

the centre. They covered 14 miles that day on a road through high mountains. At 2-30 in the afternoon, near Ghertele, the leading battalion halted, and the 5th passed through as an advance guard. The country was so wild, steep, and rocky—they had climbed a thousand feet and were now 4,300 feet above sea level—that it was almost impossible to leave the road. At dusk they reached the abandoned camp of Osteria del Termine on the Austrian border, and halted for the night, which was bitterly cold. Outposts were thrown out on the flanks, for the 7th Battalion were leading the Brigade, but the enemy had lost heart, and neither battalion was molested. By 5-30 the next morning the Brigade was on the move again.

Osteria del  
Termine,  
Nov. 2nd

Crossing the frontier they marched on, the first British troops to enter hostile territory on the Western front. But at Vezzena came a check. An Austrian battalion was drawn up on the road to parley. The Divisional Commander was with them. Through an interpreter he insisted that the armistice was signed, and that the 7th were advancing beyond the limits assigned them. Brigadier-General Sladen came up and disillusioned him. Allowing the Austrians ten minutes to surrender, and threatening them with certain destruction if they refused, he sent out Lewis guns to command their position from the flank. Although they outnumbered such of the vanguard as were on the spot, the Austrian General and his men were bluffed into submission and sent to the rear as prisoners. The way was now clear, and the 5th Battalion was ordered to pass through the 7th and continue the

advance. C Company was deployed up the hillside to deal with enemy parties that would not come in and the battalion pushed on into the Trentino. The whole area was now crowded with parties of sullen and mutinous Austrians, unwilling to surrender, unable to fight. Their army had fallen to pieces ; they had been betrayed by the unfounded rumour of an armistice. Officers, N.C.O.'s and men, they were forced to surrender, disarmed, and sent down towards Asiago. Sometimes attempting to fight, they were reduced by parties sent out to the flanks. On the whole there was little but long-range rifle-fire. That day the Commander of the Austrians 3rd Corps rode in with his Staff and formally surrendered under a white flag. The situation was serious, for the Brigade was now advancing alone among thousands of prisoners who outnumbered them many times. But superior morale and stupendous bluffing carried the day. A subaltern's patrol of ten captured a modern fort, armed with six inch guns and manned by 300 men. A single officer accepted the surrender of a complete field battery on the road. By half-past eight the battalion was so dispersed and had advanced so fast that a halt for reorganisation was necessary. They were now on the crest of the range. Five thousand feet up, they could see where the ground fell sheer down three thousand feet into the wide Val Sugana. The road wound down in a series of hairpin bends to Caldonazzo, the Austrian railhead, and three miles further, across the river Brenta, stood Levico, the army headquarters. All the roads converged

here, the Val Sugana, the Val d'Assa, and the Val Astico. The Austrians had calculated that the Allies would not reach this vital point for two days, but the Brigade had broken through the rear-guards and reached it in 24 hours.

Retiring columns could be seen converging on Levico along all the roads. A company was sent helter skelter, straight down the steep slope of the mountain, to fling itself on an Austrian transport column below. Horses were taken out of the wagons and a mounted patrol organised which pushed on, doing wonderful work. Other men drove on in wagons, and the battalion entered Caldonazzo. Here there was a scene of indescribable confusion. Thousands of Austrians, utterly disorganised, were looting the enormous dumps of food and material. A Company encountered resistance, and a sharp skirmish took place in the streets of the town; strangely interrupted by parties of Italian girls coming out to greet their liberators, whom they insisted on hailing as the "Americani."

The British were at last overwhelmed by the numbers of half-subdued prisoners. The roads were crowded and impassable. Looting could not be prevented, for there was no food for the multitude. Far less was it possible to count the booty, which contained hundreds of guns and immense quantities of horses, transport and rolling stock. Amid other troubles the roads had been blocked by the cables of destroyed "telefericas," and made impassable by burning camps and heaps of stores.



Levico,  
Nov. 3rd

At 12-50 the mounted patrol under the Commanding Officer, who had pushed on, entered Levico, having advanced 14 miles that day. This pleasant little centre for winter sports had been an Austrian Army Headquarters, but now it was abandoned. Yet the patrol was not too late for other successes. In the course of the afternoon six whole battalions marched down from the Val Sugana and formally surrendered, complete, on finding the British in Levico between them and home. They were not informed that they were surrendering to a party of about a dozen men.

The 145th Brigade following close behind had now reached Caldonazzo, allowing the 5th Royal Warwickshire Regiment to close forward to Levico. That night they rested in good billets. The Austrian army had melted away: the signing of an armistice was expected on the following day.

On the 4th November the Brigade moved on again, intending to advance as far as possible before the hour of the conclusion of hostilities. The 6th Battalion, who were leading that day, reached a village four miles from Trent, the capital of the Trentino, but the privilege of entering the town was reserved for an Italian division, which was hurried forward for the purpose.

Faida,  
1-45 p.m.,  
Nov. 4th.

The 5th Battalion having marched 11 miles, had reached Faida, north east of Trent, when the armistice came into effect at 3 p.m.

Here, screened by a line of outposts, they rested three days.

The last words of the last British communique from the Italian front related that "the 48th

Division had taken during the last 48 hours many thousands of prisoners, the numbers of which could not be enumerated, but were estimated at 20,000, including four Corps or Divisional Commanders. Several hundred guns had also fallen into their hands."

A later estimate placed the numbers at 22,000 prisoners and 500 guns, of which almost all fell to the Warwickshire Brigade, and a very large percentage (over 50 per cent.) to the 5th Battalion. They had also marched 39 miles in three days among mountains ranging from 3,000 to 6,000 feet high, in winter, after 14 weeks of bitter trench warfare, and on one of those days had experienced several light skirmishes, and had several times been forced to deploy and clear positions that towered above the road.

At Faida the inhabitants were friendly, having pro-Ally sympathies, and were willing to buy Austrian horses for which the battalion had no more use.

The war was over, but there was one more trial to endure. The Brigade had advanced so far that the line of communications was overstrained. After three days the Italian Army of Occupation had moved up, and the British were hurried back to the plains with all despatch. The 5th marched down to Levico, and next day climbed three thousand feet in the middle of the eleven mile march to Vezzena. The next day they went on again to Portule in the Val d'Assa, and reached Granezza on the 11th, after a long 14 miles. That day the news was passed down the column that the Armistice had been signed in France.

Levico,  
Nov. 8th

Vezzena,  
Nov. 9th

Portule,  
Nov. 10th

Granezza,  
Nov. 11th—12th

Thiene,  
Nov. 13th

Valdagno,  
Nov. 14th

A day of well-deserved rest was spent at Granezza before the march was continued down to the plains. Then two tremendous days of 18½ and 20 miles respectively brought the battalion to Valdagno, at the foot of the mountains, 20 miles from Vicenza.

Between November 1st and November 14th, they had marched 126½ miles, an average of 9·125 miles per day, over high mountains and mostly through hostile country. On the ten marching days, excluding the halts at Faida and Granezza, an average of 12·65 miles per day had been maintained. Such a march under such conditions and achieving such results was almost unprecedented in the history of warfare.

The rest of the winter was spent at Valdagno, a pleasant enough village. A little training was done at first and inspections were held by the Divisional Commander and General Sandulli of the Staff of the 6th Italian Army. Educational classes were arranged in technical subjects as well as the limited resources of the country would permit. The chief activity was sport. Brigadier-General Sladen offered a cup to be competed for among companies in boxing, running, tug-of-war and football. The first two events were carried off by the 5th Battalion, but the 7th won the other two, and were given the cup. A simultaneous competition on the same lines was held throughout the army in Italy, and in this the 5th represented the Brigade. The canteen funds were divided among companies, who each held a dinner and a concert with great success.

Christmas was celebrated more lavishly than ever before, and was marked by a brilliant pantomime presented by the Curios. The Commander-in-Chief (Lord Cavan) visited the battalion on that day.

On December 23rd the first party left for demobilisation. There was some dissatisfaction at first over the method of selection, but gradually the scheme worked better, and the battalion dwindled rapidly. During February the 7th was formed into a composite battalion for the Army of Occupation, and the 5th and 6th were reduced to "cadre" strength.

On the 23rd of March, the 4th anniversary of their landing in France, stores were handed over, and the battalion ceased to be on a war footing.

The cadre entrained at Tavernelle on March 26th, under command of Major H. S. Bloomer, M.C.

They arrived in Birmingham at 8-30 p.m. on April 3rd, to find large crowds waiting at the station. Officers and men who had served with the battalion had assembled; a band had been found somewhere; so by torchlight they came back to Thorp Street, where the Lord Mayor was waiting to receive them. The war service of the 5th Royal Warwickshire Regiment then came to an end amid the acclamations of hastily-assembled friends, without laboured celebrations, but with the spontaneous greetings of the city whence it came.

Birmingham,  
April, 1919

## DECORATIONS AND AWARDS For Distinguished Service in the Field.

Name.		C.M.G.		Place.
		Date of Award.	Date of Recommendation.	
Brig.-Gen. G. C. Sladen	...	1-1-19	2-11-18	Austria.
<b>C.B.E.</b>				
Lt.-Col. and Hon. Col. C. J. Hart, C.B., T.D., D.L.	...	4-3-19	—	Special Services

### THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER.

Lt.-Col. G. C. Sladen	...	1-1-16	26-9-15	Foncquevillers.
(Clasp) ...	28-8-16	20-7-16		Ovillers.
Lt.-Col. E. V. "Sydenham	...	1-1-16	26-9-15	Foncquevillers.
Lt.-Col. W. C. C. Gell, M.C.	...	1-1-18	25-9-17	St. Julien.
(Clasp) ...	1-1-19	2-11-18		Austria.
Capt. "H. L. R. J. Groom, M.C.	17-9-18	12-8-18		Asiago.

### THE MILITARY CROSS.

Lieut. H. L. R. J. Groom	...	30-11-15	26-9-15	Messines.
Lt.-Col. G. C. Sladen, D.S.O.	...	28-8-16	1-6-16	Hébuterne.
Capt. A. S. Alabaster	...	15-9-16	31-8-16	Ovillers.
Capt. H. L. R. J. Groom, M.C.	...	15-9-16	31-8-16	"
928 C.S.M. F. Townley	...	15-9-16	31-8-16	"
Capt. W. C. C. Gell	...	1-1-17	10-10-16	"
Lt.-Col. W. C. Retallack	...	1-1-17	10-10-16	"
Capt. H. W. Edwards (143 Bde.)	...	1-1-17	10-10-16	"
Capt. E. I. Lea (143 Bde.)	...	1-1-17	10-10-16	"
Capt. W. A. P. Watson	...	6-6-17	17-2-17	Hébuterne.
Capt. J. H. Crosskey	...	6-5-17	25-4-17	Epéhy.
Capt. H. E. McCreedy, R.A.M.C.	...	1-1-18	6-9-17	St. Julien.
Capt. E. P. Q. Carter	...	28-10-17	11-10-17	"
Capt. E. Holt	...	28-10-17	11-10-17	"
Capt. H. L. Wostenholm	...	28-10-17	11-10-17	"
Lieut. C. E. Carrington	...	28-10-17	11-10-17	"
Major H. S. Bloomer	...	3-6-18	6-3-18	"
2/Lieut. G. H. Wilson	...	1-9-18	10-8-18	Asiago.
2/Lieut. N. Stocks	...	17-9-18	12-8-18	"
2/Lieut. S. Jarvis	...	17-9-18	12-8-18	"
2/Lieut. C. J. Elbourne	...	17-9-18	12-8-18	"
Lieut. F. W. Hale	...	1-12-18	15-11-18	Austria.
Lieut. C. C. Usher	...	1-12-18	15-11-18	"

### THE DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

2396 C.S.M. H. Adkins	...	1-1-16	26-9-15	Foncquevillers.
1446 Sgt. R. Fitzgerald	...	1-1-16	26-9-15	"
200049 R.S.M. J. H. Foley	...	5-1-18	23-9-17	St. Julien.
200500 Sgt. O. Tomlin	...	27-10-17	11-10-17	"
200053 R.S.M. F. Townley, M.C.	...	30-6-18	19-6-18	Asiago.
200076 C.S.M. W. Harvey	...	30-6-18	19-6-18	"
200020 Sgt. A. Tomlinson	...	1-9-18	10-8-18	"
200391 Sgt. L. W. Brooks	...	17-9-18	12-8-18	"
20757 Sgt. P. Childerley	...	17-9-18	12-8-18	"

# History of the 5th Territorial Battalion the Royal 87 Warwickshire Regiment.

## THE MILITARY MEDAL.

	<i>Name.</i>	<i>Date of Award.</i>	<i>Date of Recommendation.</i>	<i>Place.</i>
2454	Pte. A. Penson	4-6-16	—	Fonquevillers.
1811	Cpl. J. Davies	9-11-16	5-6-16	"
3608	L/Cpl. F. Oretton	9-11-16	5-6-16	"
1146	Sgt. Sheldon	9-11-16	5-6-16	"
1349	Sgt. D. L. A. Paine	9-11-16	5-6-16	"
2364	Cpl. R. Webster	9-11-16	5-6-16	"
1831	Pte. H. Wise	9-11-16	5-6-16	"
2312	Pte. J. Palmer	9-11-16	5-6-16	"
72	Sgt. R. Hemming	11-9-16	30-7-16	Ovillers.
2526	L/Cpl. L. Childs	11-9-16	30-7-16	"
1531	Sgt. R. Steane	23-8-16	30-7-16	"
1323	C.Q.M.S. E. Kitchen	17-10-16	10-10-16	"
2196	Sgt. R. Stokes	17-10-16	10-10-16	"
2057	Drmr. H. Rowson	17-10-16	10-10-16	"
200598	Pte. L. Cox	6-5-17	25-4-17	Epéhy.
200235	Pte. J. Sorrell	27-8-17	18-8-17	St. Julien.
200139	Pte. E. H. Burrows	27-8-17	18-8-17	"
200455	Pte. W. Webster	27-8-17	18-8-17	"
200983	Sgt. F. Oretton, M.M.	4-9-17	13-8-17	"
242273	Pte. R. Egginton	10-9-17	2-9-17	"
200120	Sgt. T. Dyson	23-10-17	11-10-17	"
201683	Sgt. R. Falconer	23-10-17	11-10-17	"
200233	Sgt. L. Tyler	23-10-17	11-10-17	"
200496	L/Cpl. G. Deeley	23-10-17	11-10-17	"
203068	L/Cpl. S. Sutton	23-10-17	11-10-17	"
20624	Pte. J. Burrows	23-10-17	11-10-17	"
200436	Pte. W. Caywood	23-10-17	11-10-17	"
19568	Pte. J. A. Maycock	23-10-17	11-10-17	"
200225	L/Cpl. F. H. Condry	30-6-18	19-6-18	Asiago.
200028	Sgt. W. H. Payne	30-6-18	19-6-18	"
307698	Sgt. R. V. Howes	30-6-18	19-6-18	"
267458	Pte. J. Axford	30-6-18	19-6-18	"
235187	L/Cpl. A. H. Clark	1-9-18	12-8-18	"
200744	Pte. P. Rigby	1-9-18	12-8-18	"
235114	Sgt. W. Taylor	17-9-18	12-9-18	"
203006	Cpl. H. Bennett	17-9-18	12-9-18	"
201043	Cpl. J. Heaton	17-9-18	12-9-18	"
200496	Cpl. G. Deeley, M.M.	17-9-18	12-9-18	"
33960	L/Cpl. J. A. Hall	17-9-18	12-9-18	"
28872	L/Cpl. V. E. Harding	17-9-18	12-9-18	"
203069	Pte. C. Bates	17-9-18	12-9-18	"
34631	Pte. W. T. Brown	17-9-18	12-9-18	"
33355	Pte. T. Duffy	17-9-18	12-9-18	"
33312	Pte. W. Harris	17-9-18	12-9-18	"
235197	Pte. J. Hulam	17-9-18	12-9-18	"
1982	Pte. E. Guntrip	17-9-18	12-9-18	"
200767	Pte. D. Morgan	17-9-18	12-9-18	"
24898	Pte. A. L. G. Rogers	17-9-18	12-9-18	"
203341	C.S.M. A. Cannon, M.S.M.	1-12-18	15-11-18	Austria.
200431	Sgt. J. Meredith	1-12-18	15-11-18	"
200139	Sgt. J. J. Gannon	1-12-18	15-11-18	"
2029	Sgt. A. Roberts	1-12-18	15-11-18	"
201715	L/Cpl. J. Elks	1-12-18	15-11-18	"
201114	Pte. W. B. Brooks	1-12-18	15-11-18	"
203083	Pte. J. W. Cross	1-12-18	15-11-18	"
200762	Pte. F. Gray	1-12-18	15-11-18	"
200768	Pte. F. Freeman	1-12-18	15-11-18	"
241637	Pte. E. W. Howe	1-12-18	15-11-18	"
306412	Pte. W. Johnson	1-12-18	15-11-18	"
20218	Pte. E. Law	1-12-18	15-11-18	"
201819	Pte. D. Sadler	1-12-18	15-11-18	"

# 88      *History of the 5th Territorial Battalion the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.*

## THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL.

	<i>Name.</i>		<i>Date of Award.</i>	<i>Date of Recommendation.</i>	<i>Place.</i>
200006	R.Q.M.S. E. Hemmings	...	6-1-19	13-12-19	—
203341	C.S.M. A. Cannon	...	3-6-18	6-3-18	—
200803	Sgt. W. Lucock	...	3-6-18	6-3-18	—
200495	C.S.M. F. Floyd	...	6-1-19	20-9-18	—
200273	Sgt. G. Nightingale	...	6-1-19	14-10-18	—
200484	Sgt. F. Fowler	...	6-1-19	14-10-18	—
200090	Sgt. C. Blackwell	...	6-1-19	14-10-18	—
20003	Sgt. F. Brooks	...	6-1-19	13-12-19	—
200007	C.Q.M.S. A. F. Trimnell	...	6-1-19	13-12-19	—

## ALLIED DECORATIONS.

### THE LEGION OF HONOUR (FRENCH).

Capt. E. I. Lea (143 Bde.) ... 30-11-15      26-9-15      Fonquevillers.

### THE CROIX DE GUERRE (FRENCH).

Lt.-Col. E. V. Sydenham,  
D.S.O., T.D. ... 1-1-18      15-12-18      France.  
668 R.S.M. J. H. Foley ... 11-2-17      1-2-17      Ovivlers.  
Capt. (Temp. Lt.-Col.) H. W.  
Edwards, D.S.O., M.C. ... 8-1-19      14-12-18      Italy.

### THE CROIX DE GUERRE (BELGIAN).

200400 Sgt. E. H. Miller ... 8-2-18      22-12-17      St. Julien.  
200043 Sgt. J. Townsend ... 8-2-18      22-12-17      „

### THE SILVER MEDAL FOR VALOUR (ITALIAN).

Capt. W. A. P. Watson, M.C. ... 30-6-18      19-6-18      Asiago.  
2/Lieut. G. Rae ... 17-9-18      12-8-18      „  
Lt.-Col. W. C. C. Gell, D.S.O.,  
M.C. ... 29-9-18      12-9-18      „

### THE BRONZE MEDAL FOR VALOUR (ITALIAN).

2/Lieut. G. A. Martin ... 17-9-18      12-8-18      Asiago.

### THE CROCE DE GUERRA (ITALIAN).

200500 Sgt. O. Tomlin, D.C.M. ... 17-9-18      12-9-18      Asiago.  
200154 Pte. H. Foster ... 17-9-18      12-9-18      „  
14774 Pte. W. Wagstaff ... 17-9-18      12-9-18      „  
Major H. S. Bloomer, M.C. ... 9-12-18      6-11-18      Austria.  
Lieut. E. A. Cochrane ... 9-12-18      6-11-18      „  
200727 Sgt. H. G. Barrett ... 9-12-18      6-11-18      „  
Major A. S. Alabaster, M.C. ... 11-3-19      29-11-18      „

### THE ORDER OF ST. STANISLAS (RUSSIAN).

Lt.-Col. G. C. Sladen, D.S.O.,  
M.C. ... 15-9-16      31-8-16...Ovivlers.

**AWARDS OF BREVET RANK.**

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Date of Award.</i>	<i>Date of Recommendation.</i>	<i>Place.</i>
Capt. (A./Lt.-Col.) G. C. Sladen to be Brevet Major ...	—	1-1-16	—
Capt. (A./Lt.-Col.) J. H. Crosskey, M.C., to be Brevet Major ...	—	1-1-18	—
Bt. Major (A./Brig.-Gen.) G. C. Sladen, D.S.O., M.C., to be Brevet-Lieut.-Col. ...	—	—	—
Capt. (A./Lt.-Col.) W. C. C. Gell, D.S.O., M.C., to be Brevet Major ...	—	1-1-18	—

**LIST OF NAMES "MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES."**

	Lt.-Col. G. C. Sladen ...	30-11-15	—	—
	Major E. V. Sydenham (48th Division) ...	30-11-15	—	—
	Major P. H. Carter ...	30-11-15	—	—
	Major W. H. Franklin ...	30-11-15	—	—
	Capt. C. Retallack ...	30-11-15	—	—
	Capt. P. D. Bennett ...	30-11-15	—	—
	Lieut. R. Kennon (R.A.M.C.) ...	30-11-15	—	—
443	Sgt. Williams ...	30-11-15	—	—
2516	Sgt. Haynes ...	30-11-15	—	—
	Capt E. I. Lea (143 Bde.) ...	30-11-15	—	—
	Capt. H. Edwards (143 Bde.) ...	30-11-15	—	—
	Capt. C. Retallack ...	16-6-16	—	—
1811	Cpl. J. Davies ...	16-6-16	—	—
2677	Pte. A. Challis ...	16-6-16	—	—
	Capt. W. C. C. Gell ...	1-1-17	—	—
1146	Sgt. A. T. Sheldon ...	1-1-17	—	—
2532	Pte. L. Fairfax ...	1-1-17	—	—
1080	Pte. J. Evans ...	1-1-17	—	—
	Capt. J. H. Crosskey ...	9-4-17	—	—
2391	R.Q.M.S. W. L. Bayes ...	22-5-17	—	—
74	C.Q.M.S. A. F. Trimnell ...	9-4-17	—	—
	Capt. H. S. Bloomer ...	14-12-17	—	—
	Lieut. C. C. Usher ...	1-1-18	—	—
	Lt.-Col. W. C. C. Gell ...	14-12-17	—	—
	Lt.-Col. J. H. Crosskey ...	14-12-17	—	—
	2/Lieut. W. Eckersley ...	14-12-17	—	—
28856	C.S.M. H. Scott ...	30-5-18	—	—
200737	Sgt. H. G. Barrett ...	30-5-18	—	—
200212	Sgt. T. Matthews ...	30-5-18	—	—
200434	Sgt. H. D. Parsons ...	30-5-18	—	—
	Lieut. E. A. Cochrane ...	30-5-18	—	—
	2/Lieut. T. L. Goode ...	30-5-18	—	—
200431	Sgt. J. Meredith ...	30-5-18	—	—
	Major E. I. Lea, M.C. ...	15-9-18 to 31-12-18	—	—
	Major E. A. M. Bindloss ...	6-1-19	—	—
	Capt. F. W. H. Martin ...	6-1-19	—	—
	Capt. J. Showell ...	6-1-19	—	—
	Capt. F. H. Webb ...	6-1-19	—	—
200638	C.Q.M.S. C. E. Newnham ...	6-1-19	—	—
200592	Sgt. W. G. Plester ...	6-1-19	—	—
200299	Cpl. F. Steer ...	6-1-19	—	—
	Brig.-Gen. G. C. Sladen, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C. ...	6-1-19	—	—
	Lt.-Col. W. C. C. Gell, D.S.O., M.C. ...	6-1-19	—	—
200599	L/Cpl. R. Moore ...	6-1-19	—	—
	Capt. W. C. C. Gell (Acting Lt.-Col.), D.S.O., M.C. ...	8-1-19	—	—



## ROLL OF KILLED.

### MESSINES AND PLOEGSTEERT.

<i>Regtl. No.</i>	<i>Rank and Name.</i>	<i>Date of Casualty.</i>	<i>Nature of Casualty.</i>
3121	Pte. C. C. Gould ...	13-4-15	Killed.
2613	Pte. E. Earle ...	14-4-15	Died of wounds.
2540	Pte. D. Bramwell ...	15-4-15	Killed.
2544	L/Cpl. A. Ferguson ...	16-4-15	Killed.
3045	Pte. A. Cottrell ...	16-4-15	Killed.
1666	Pte. J. Myring ...	22-4-15	Killed.
2528	Pte. J. Sullivan ...	27-4-15	Killed.
3378	Pte. F. Bartlett ...	1-5-15	Killed.
1867	Pte. J. Cornelious ...	1-5-15	Killed.
1472	Pte. J. Green ...	1-5-15	Killed.
1131	Pte. J. Hoult ...	1-5-15	Killed.
2572	Pte. S. Smith ...	6-5-15	Killed.
1389	Pte. J. Cleaver ...	7-5-15	Killed.
2361	L/Cpl. W. R. Lee ...	9-5-15	Killed.
2429	Pte. E. Arrowsmith ...	9-5-15	Killed.
2428	Pte. B. J. Bonell ...	9-5-15	Killed.
2376	Pte. G. Brookes ...	9-5-15	Killed.
2050	Pte. W. Nicholls ...	9-5-15	Killed.
2618	Pte. A. E. Perks ...	9-5-15	Killed.
852	Pte. G. Porter ...	9-5-15	Killed.
1482	Pte. T. Penn ...	12-5-15	Died of wounds.
3575	Pte. V. F. Kieff ...	13-5-15	Killed.
2404	Pte. T. Goode ...	26-5-15	Killed.
3091	Pte. W. A. Bellgrove ...	31-5-15	Killed.
	Capt. J. Francis ...	2-6-15	Killed.
	2/Lieut. R. W. Edgington ...	3-6-15	Killed.
2309	Pte. T. L. Westwood ...	4-6-15	Killed.
4081	Pte. R. Warner ...	18-6-15	Killed.
1529	Pte. F. Grimmett ...	22-6-15	Died of wounds.
2505	Pte. W. A. Turvey ...	24-6-15	Died of wounds.
2693	Pte. G. Warburton ...	26-6-15	Died of wounds.

### HEBUTERNE AND FONCQUEVILLERS.

2436	Cpl. A. H. Turner ...	26-7-15	Killed.
1358	Pte. T. A. Castle ...	26-7-15	Killed.
2974	Pte. H. J. Collins ...	26-7-15	Killed.
2931	Pte. J. Gilberthorpe ...	22-8-15	Died of appendicitis.
3959	Pte. J. S. White ...	24-8-15	Killed.
	Capt. J. K. Rabone ...	1-9-15	Died of appendicitis.
2365	Pte. H. George ...	17-9-15	Killed.
992	L/Cpl. A. G. Homer ...	19-9-15	Killed.
3985	Pte. B. W. Broome ...	2-11-15	Died of gastric ulcer.
	Lieut. J. W. Hudson ...	30-11-15	Killed.
66	Pte. F. L. Wood ...	9-2-16	Killed.
200240	Pte. H. Leonard ...	23-3-16	Died of wounds, 21-4-17.
200450	Pte. G. Clarke ...	16-4-16	Killed.
2069	Pte. W. Barnes ...	24-4-16	Killed.
2573	Pte. A. Turner ...	25-4-16	Killed.
88	Sgt. J. W. Daykin ...	26-4-16	Killed.
1747	Cpl. W. Gardner ...	26-4-16	Killed (Accident).
1720	Pte. G. Bendall ...	22-5-16	Killed (Accident).
	2/Lieut. F. C. Alabaster ...	25-6-16	Died of wounds, 25-8-16.
201216	L/Cpl. E. Delaney ...	28-6-16	Missing, now reported killed
201406	Pte. V. H. Rugman ...	28-6-16	Missing, now reported killed
200568	Pte. H. Wyatt ...	28-6-16	Missing, now reported killed
	2/Lieut. P. A. Grove ...	1-7-16	Died of wounds, 7-7-16.
1826	Cpl. C. Dav ...	2-7-16	Killed.
3323	L/Cpl. F. E. Wakelin ...	4-7-16	Killed.
5619	Pte. P. H. E. Holloway ...	4-7-16	Killed.
3039	Pte. R. Elton ...	4-7-16	Killed.

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## History of the 5th Territorial Battalion the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

### OVILLERS AND POZIERES.

<i>Regtl. No.</i>	<i>Rank and Name.</i>	<i>Date of Casualty.</i>	<i>Nature of Casualty.</i>
201681	Pte. W. H. Perks ... ..	13-7-16	Died of wounds.
201691	Pte. E. Fisher ... ..	13-7-16	Killed.
5780	Pte. T. Jordan ... ..	13-7-16	Killed.
	Capt. D. G. Lunt ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
	Capt. C. V. Suckling ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
	2/Lieut. R. J. H. Simpkin ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
193	Sgt. W. West ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
1832	Sgt. J. Deakin ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
373	Sgt. W. E. Grettage ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
443	Sgt. G. Williams ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
1690	Cpl. W. Brooks ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
4632	L/Cpl. J. E. Harris ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
2597	L/Cpl. J. Hammond ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
200281	Pte. G. Brookes ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
2895	Pte. L. Griffiths ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
5549	Pte. H. Landucci ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
2719	Pte. H. Poulton ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
5258	Pte. S. Williams ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
1986	Pte. J. D. Sharp ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
4886	Pte. E. Davis ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
3998	Pte. J. Yates ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
2164	Pte. W. Ennis ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
2249	Pte. J. E. Conway ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
1599	Pte. W. Pemberton ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
3359	Pte. A. White ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
4697	Pte. B. Horne ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
1721	Pte. W. P. Bevan ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
1501	Pte. K. Parkes ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
2950	Pte. C. E. Brown ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
3143	Pte. P. Lichfield ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
5113	Pte. J. H. Cooke ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
3896	Pte. F. Beet ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
4232	Pte. A. Blewitt ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
2419	Dmr. A. H. Stone ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
3308	Pte. H. Higginson ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
20812	Pte. A. Davies ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
2612	Pte. J. H. Jackson ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
5617	Pte. W. H. Depper ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
2460	Pte. H. Swindells ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
5114	Pte. J. Foxall ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
3685	Pte. D. H. Mitchell ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
5243	Pte. A. Sheppard ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
1571	Pte. J. Kenealy ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
2609	Pte. J. Rhodes ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
2041	Pte. S. Guest ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
2693	Pte. W. Tolley ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
5695	Pte. R. Tilley ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
2757	Pte. J. Whitney ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
4204	Pte. J. Brennan ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
5397	Pte. W. Pearce ... ..	16-7-16	Killed.
3646	Pte. G. Johnson ... ..	10/18-7-16	Died of wounds, 27-7-16.
5399	Pte. A. Perry ... ..	8-8-16	Killed.
201660	Pte. W. Clifford ... ..	19-8-16	Killed.
200324	Pte. J. Hogan ... ..	19-8-16	Killed.
	2/Lieut. F. Watts ... ..	23/24-7-16	Killed.
2905	L/Cpl. A. E. Bennett ... ..	23/24-7-16	Killed.
3043	Pte. A. S. Bovill ... ..	23/24-7-16	Killed.
1671	Pte. A. Briggs ... ..	23/24-7-16	Killed.
2162	Pte. G. H. Jones ... ..	23/24-7-16	Killed.
2265	Pte. R. Jones ... ..	23/24-7-16	Killed.
2276	Pte. C. J. Kemp ... ..	23/24-7-16	Killed.

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<i>Regt. No.</i>	<i>Rank and Name.</i>	<i>Date of Casualty.</i>	<i>Nature of Casualty.</i>
5893	Pte. T. Moynagh ...	23/24-7-16	Killed.
4952	Pte. S. G. Shepherd ...	23/24-7-16	Died of wounds, 25-7-16.
5966	Pte. W. Fletcher ...	27-7-16	Killed.
5369	Pte. H. Taylor ...	4-8-16	Killed.
6278	Pte. G. Pilling ...	8-8-16	Killed.
2245	L/Cpl. P. F. Starling ...	8-8-16	Killed.
	2/Lieut. W. E. Curtis ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
	2/Lieut. F. P. Kyd ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
	C.S.M. W. Bryne ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
71	Sgt. E. R. Quarterman ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
2526	Cpl. L. Childs, M.M. ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
200628	Cpl. A. G. Mason ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
6120	Pte. A. Barton ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
820	Pte. S. Bird ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
1653	Pte. F. G. Brown ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
1460	Pte. L. Chance ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
2870	Pte. F. Cottom ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
20731	Pte. H. G. Carrington ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
20769	Pte. H. Childerley ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
20758	Pte. G. A. Clark ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
20745	Pte. E. J. Colbert ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
2095	Pte. W. Daniels ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
4768	Pte. A. Harris ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
828	Pte. J. Hoare ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
2938	Pte. W. C. Lewis ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
200766	Pte. W. Meagher ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
201809	Pte. A. Moran ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
3592	Pte. H. Robinson ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
2914	Pte. W. Scandrett ...	18/19-8-16	Killed.
1531	Sgt. C. Steane, M.M. ...	18/19-8-16	Died of wounds, 24-8-16.
1088	Cpl. A. North ...	18/19-8-16	Died of wounds, 22-8-16.
2102	Cpl. W. J. Rickerby ...	18/19-8-16	Died of wounds, 21-11-16.
4882	L/Cpl. A. Busby ...	18/19-8-16	Died of wounds, 20-8-16.
2522	Pte. E. Butler ...	18/19-8-16	Died of wounds, 27-8-16.
208455	Pte. F. Chester ...	18/19-8-16	Died of wounds, 18-8-16.
3987	Pte. J. Dixon ...	18/19-8-16	Died of wounds, 18-8-16.
2477	Pte. H. T. Evans ...	18/19-8-16	Died of wounds, 20-8-16.
201736	Pte. H. Everitt ...	18/19-8-16	Died of wounds, 18-8-16.
5997	Pte. A. Wheeldon ...	18/19-8-16	Died of wounds, 18-8-16.
4934	Pte. J. Acwin ...	22/24-8-16	Killed.
2578	Pte. J. Attenborough ...	22/24-8-16	Killed.
20702	Pte. H. Bright ...	22/24-8-16	Killed.
20711	Pte. J. W. Bateman ...	22/24-8-16	Killed.
20719	Pte. A. Bedford ...	22/24-8-16	Killed.
1083	Cpl. A. North ...	22/24-8-16	Killed.
1534	Sgt. C. Cox ...	22/24-8-16	Died of wounds, 6-9-18.
2503	Cpl. J. G. Phillips ...	4-10-16	Died of wounds, 5-10-16.
3064	Pte. R. Smith ...	5-10-16	Killed.
3301	Pte. F. H. Aston ...	16-10-16	Killed.
<b>LE SARRS.</b>			
1502	Pte. E. Charles ...	10-11-16	Killed.
20713	Pte. W. Clarke ...	10-11-16	Killed.
6144	Pte. B. J. Osborn ...	10-11-16	Killed.
6210	Pte. T. Eaton ...	11-11-16	Killed.
6355	Pte. T. E. Hayes ...	11-11-16	Killed.
5575	Pte. A. W. Wright ...	11-11-16	Died of wounds, 13-11-16.
6477	Pte. H. Drinkwater ...	17-11-16	Killed.
6367	Pte. R. Hedges ...	17-11-16	Killed.
1902	Pte. H. Winfield ...	17-11-16	Killed.
6433	Pte. J. Blore ...	24-11-16	Died of wounds, 27-1-116.
3570	Pte. F. Aldridge ...	27-11-16	Killed.
6534	Pte. A. Dash ...	27-11-16	Killed.
4787	Pte. G. Fulford ...	27-11-16	Killed.
6462	Pte. T. Moore ...	8-12-16	Killed.

# History of the 5th Territorial Battalion the Royal 93 Warwickshire Regiment.

## BIACHES, EPEHY.

<i>Regtl. No.</i>	<i>Rank and Name.</i>	<i>Date of Casualty.</i>	<i>Nature of Casualty.</i>
200369	Pte. H. F. Thomas ...	29-1-17	Accidentally killed.
5846	Pte. S. Faulkner ...	25-1-17	Died of pneumonia.
201691	Pte. H. Fisher ...	6-2-17	Killed.
20336	Pte. R. H. Miles ...	6-2-17	Killed.
201414	Pte. A. T. Wood ...	6-2-17	Killed.
203031	Pte. J. H. Hockley ...	6-2-17	Died of wounds, 9-2-17.
6075	Pte. O. French ...	10-2-17	Died of pneumonia.
5344	Pte. F. Cox ...	28-2-17	Died of pneumonia.
	Lieut. G. E. Orton-Smith ...	1-3-17	Killed.
202069	Pte. F. H. Burman ...	2-3-17	Killed.
201976	Pte. F. J. R. Padbury ...	16-3-17	Killed.
	2/Lieut. H. L. Harcourt ...	17-3-17	Died of wounds, 20-3-17.
	2/Lieut. D. T. Parry ...	17-3-17	Died of wounds, 24-3-17.
200438	L/Cpl. J. Miller ...	29-3-17	Accidentally killed.
201732	Pte. W. King ...	29-3-17	Killed.
202035	Pte. E. Starling ...	29-3-17	Killed.
200287	Pte. W. Trueman ...	29-3-17	Killed.
	2/Lieut. A. J. Lilly ...	4-4-17	Killed.
202026	Pte. J. Baldwin ...	7-4-17	Killed.
200518	Sgt. B. Harborne ...	16/17-4-17	Killed.
203002	Pte. J. T. Biggs ...	16/17-4-17	Killed.
202295	Pte. H. S. Duce ...	16/17-4-17	Killed.
201293	Pte. B. Elliott ...	16/17-4-17	Killed.
202028	Pte. A. Garratt ...	16/17-4-17	Killed.
200272	Pte. E. Jarvis ...	16/17-4-17	Killed.
201746	Pte. F. W. Matthews ...	16/17-4-17	Killed.
203439	Pte. E. J. Watkins ...	16/17-4-17	Killed.
201974	Pte. J. Whitehouse ...	16/17-4-17	Killed.
200312	Cpl. E. G. Robins ...	16/17-4-17	Died of wounds, 17-4-17.
201983	Pte. W. Ball ...	16/17-4-17	Died of wounds, 22-4-17.
202020	Pte. C. H. Bates ...	16/17-4-17	Died of wounds, 19-4-17.
201996	Pte. J. H. Weston ...	22-7-17	Died of appendicitis.

## ST. JULIEN.

203402	Pte. G. E. A. Collett ...	9-8-17	Killed.
241428	Pte. L. Roberts ...	9-8-17	Killed.
28871	Pte. F. A. Stone ...	9-8-17	Killed.
241111	Pte. J. Walters ...	9-8-17	Killed.
200146	Sgt. H. H. B. Holden ...	10-8-17	Killed.
202373	Cpl. W. Jacques ...	10-8-17	Killed.
200359	Cpl. A. Brush ...	10-8-17	Killed.
200204	Dmr. A. J. Hitchman ...	10-8-17	Killed.
200269	Pte. S. J. Boulton ...	10-8-17	Killed.
201386	Pte. F. Corbett ...	10-8-17	Killed.
200702	Pte. F. Hopston ...	10-8-17	Killed.
23857	Pte. J. G. Jacka ...	10-8-17	Killed.
242228	Pte. W. J. Jordan ...	10-8-17	Killed.
200936	Pte. W. Parker ...	10-8-17	Killed.
29058	Pte. J. Solomon ...	10-8-17	Killed.
1535	Pte. A. J. Stringer ...	10-8-17	Killed.
200700	Pte. A. Thomas ...	10-8-17	Killed.
202969	Pte. S. A. Woolley ...	10-8-17	Killed.
201103	Pte. H. Wright ...	10-8-17	Killed.
201665	Pte. A. Bellingham ...	10-8-17	Died of wounds, 11-8-17.
200740	Pte. W. Reeves ...	10-8-17	Died of wounds, 13-8-17.
203011	Pte. E. Webb ...	10-8-17	Died of wounds, 11-8-17.
24518	L/Cpl. G. Beesley ...	13-8-17	Killed.
201808	L/Cpl. J. Fallon ...	13-8-17	Killed.
202563	L/Cpl. F. G. Parkes ...	13-8-17	Killed.
203055	L/Cpl. F. Padbury ...	13-8-17	Died of wounds, 15-8-17.
200313	Pte. P. Rands ...	14-8-17	Killed.

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Warwickshire Regiment.*

<i>Regtl. No.</i>	<i>Rank and Name.</i>	<i>Date of Casualty.</i>	<i>Nature of Casualty.</i>
29042	Pte. W. K. Benjamin ...	15-8-17	Killed.
202002	Pte. F. F. Cox ...	15-8-17	Killed.
203312	Pte. F. S. Colbert ...	15-8-17	Killed.
200714	Cpl. H. Bennett ...	15-8-17	Died of wounds, 1-9-17.
201158	Pte. T. A. Woodcock ...	15-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
29047	Pte. A. Bowman ...	17-8-17	Died of wounds, 19-8-17.
1258	Pte. A. Butler ...	17-8-17	Died of wounds, 19-8-17.
15384	Pte. E. Haywood ...	18-8-17	Died of wounds, 19-8-17.
241717	Pte. J. W. Moore ...	19-8-17	Killed.
203302	Pte. W. H. Elliott ...	19-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
200509	Cpl. R. W. Watts ...	19-8-17	Died of wounds.
	2/Lieut. R. Crichton ...	22-8-17	Killed.
	2/Lieut. F. C. Magness ...	22-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
203469	L/Sgt. W. A. Bownes ...	22-8-17	Killed.
200051	L/Sgt. A. J. Howell ...	22-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
200788	Cpl. B. Hunt ...	22-8-17	Killed.
200605	L/Cpl. S. Colloff ...	22-8-17	Killed.
201150	L/Cpl. F. Irving ...	22-8-17	Killed.
201431	L/Cpl. J. Lee ...	22-8-17	Killed.
203440	L/Cpl. B. I. Lloyd ...	22-8-17	Killed.
203388	Pte. A. Allen ...	22-8-17	Killed.
28973	Pte. F. G. Arlett ...	22-8-17	Killed.
29072	Pte. A. Bunker ...	22-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
203004	Pte. E. Baxter ...	22-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
288035	Pte. W. H. Browning ...	22-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
28090	Pte. W. H. Coldman ...	22-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
19270	Pte. A. Cotterill ...	22-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
203377	Pte. T. C. Brown ...	22-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
29035	Pte. H. Fudge ...	22-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
200170	Pte. B. Gaffey ...	22-8-17	Killed.
241704	Pte. W. H. Gardner ...	22-8-17	Killed.
29011	Pte. O. Hart ...	22-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
200732	Pte. A. Hall ...	22-8-17	Killed.
201729	Pte. F. H. Jarrett ...	22-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
28855	Pte. A. Jones ...	22-8-17	Killed.
24537	Pte. W. Kelley ...	22-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
27612	Pte. G. B. Lowson ...	22-8-17	Killed.
241160	Pte. E. May ...	22-8-17	Killed.
29044	Pte. J. E. Moore ...	22-8-17	Killed.
200729	Pte. S. Smith ...	22-8-17	Killed.
202030	Pte. H. Stanley ...	22-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
28970	Pte. H. G. Reeves ...	22-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
28987	Pte. F. Villiers ...	22-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
200631	Pte. E. P. Willis ...	22-8-17	Killed.
201380	Pte. A. H. Beech ...	22-8-17	Missing.
18313	Pte. J. Bradley ...	22-8-17	Died of wounds, 25-8-17.
25002	Pte. C. Howes ...	22-8-17	Died of wounds, 6-8-17.
29038	Pte. R. Miles ...	22-8-17	Died of wounds, 23-8-17.
203050	Pte. H. Norton ...	22-8-17	Died of wounds, 24-8-17.
27265	Pte. A. Osborne ...	22-8-17	Died of wounds, 28-8-17.
202656	Pte. T. Goldingay ...	23-8-17	Killed.
29061	Pte. T. A. Grout ...	23-8-17	Killed.
29014	Pte. J. W. Howell ...	23-8-17	Killed.
203054	Pte. A. G. Parsons ...	23-8-17	Killed.
200490	Pte. H. Pratt ...	23-8-17	Died of wounds, 23-8-17.
203389	Cpl. H. E. Brown ...	24-8-17	Killed.
202021	L/Cpl. H. Tedd ...	24-8-17	Killed.
201709	Pte. T. Duffin ...	24-8-17	Killed.
29060	Pte. J. Lewis ...	24-8-17	Killed.
201225	Pte. J. T. Packer ...	24-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
29054	Pte. A. N. Rowe ...	24-8-17	Killed.
201814	Pte. G. Greet ...	24-8-17	Died of wounds, 25-8-17.
201952	Pte. P. Phillpot ...	24-8-17	Died of wounds, 24-8-17.

# History of the 5th Territorial Battalion the Royal 95 Warwickshire Regiment.

<i>Regtl. No.</i>	<i>Rank and Name.</i>	<i>Date of Casualty.</i>	<i>Nature of Casualty.</i>
2235	Pte. J. E. Pugh ...	24-8-17	Died of wounds, 26-8-17.
4641	Pte. W. Tomlin ...	24-8-17	Died of wounds, 24-8-17.
203383	Pte. G. Childs ...	25-8-17	Killed.
201804	Pte. P. C. Handy ...	25-8-17	Killed.
28981	Pte. H. Hancox ...	25-8-17	Killed.
202016	Pte. J. T. May ...	25-8-17	Killed.
4137	Pte. E. Pine ...	25-8-17	Killed.
242315	Pte. T. Rock ...	25-8-17	Killed.
201257	Pte. A. Smith ...	25-8-17	Killed.
29037	Pte. W. G. Watkins ...	25-8-17	Missing, believed killed.
28971	Pte. E. White ...	25-8-17	Killed.
200460	Pte. J. Whitehead ...	25-8-17	Killed.
29021	Pte. W. Trigg ...	27-8-17	Killed.
201214	Pte. E. Harris ...	27-8-17	Died of wounds, 1-10-17.
202392	Pte. T. Rimmer ...	27-8-17	Missing.
200273	Sgt. H. Ward ...	1-10-17	Killed.
	Capt. A. C. Bratt ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
	Capt. R. S. Turner ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
	2/Lieut. C. W. White ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
200523	Sgt. C. Haynes ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
235112	Sgt. H. T. Hurley ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
203456	Sgt. A. Roberts ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
200366	Sgt. R. Stokes ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
200457	Sgt. A. P. Summers ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
2807	Cpl. A. Pinchin ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
202045	L/Cpl. C. P. Bradfield ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
241271	L/Cpl. F. J. Griffin ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
203048	L/Cpl. A. Madden ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
330137	L/Cpl. S. Randell ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
200699	L/Cpl. E. Skett ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
200527	L/Cpl. F. Smith ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
2080	Pte. H. P. Allen ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
241930	Pte. F. Ball ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
33948	Pte. A. Batten ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
15585	Pte. E. C. Berry ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
29010	Pte. J. F. Blake ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
200251	Pte. J. P. Bradley ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
201359	Pte. W. T. Bradley ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
202480	Pte. S. Bretherton ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
32650	Pte. V. M. Brown ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
203340	Pte. J. R. Burridge ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
201467	Pte. M. Cant ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
32937	Pte. J. F. Chandler ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
235188	Pte. A. T. Cook ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
260286	Pte. R. H. Couzens ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
33252	Pte. W. F. Crow ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
29050	Pte. T. Cunningham ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
202140	Pte. C. Davis ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
200864	Pte. G. Dearn ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
201027	Pte. A. E. Dyas ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
29027	Pte. B. Fenn ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
330378	Pte. L. Flood ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
33293	Pte. C. J. Gilbert ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
29031	Pte. C. E. Gillbanks ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
21178	Pte. C. Golby ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
242370	Pte. C. Greening ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
203029	Pte. A. R. Hall ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
201737	Pte. F. A. Harvey ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
24543	Pte. F. Hill ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
330378	Pte. L. Hood ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
203036	Pte. A. Johnson ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
201835	Pte. R. F. Kessey ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
33944	Pte. L. M. King ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.

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Warwickshire Regiment.*

<i>Regtl. No.</i>	<i>Rank and Name.</i>	<i>Date of Casualty.</i>	<i>Nature of Casualty.</i>
24517	Pte. A. Lapworth ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
200173	Pte. A. Mills ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
403	Pte. H. T. Myers ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
307471	Pte. A. Pain ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
268064	Pte. A. Phillips ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
241625	Pte. J. H. Ridgley ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
241586	Pte. H. Roper ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
203223	Pte. E. C. Rowan ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
202734	Pte. J. W. Taylor ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
33939	Pte. T. H. Templer ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
29051	Pte. J. V. Whittle ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
33941	Pte. J. A. Witherford ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
141686	Pte. A. S. Woodroffe ...	4/7-10-17	Killed.
201312	Cpl. W. G. Siddall ...	4/7-10-17	Missing, believed killed.
202031	Pte. H. Adderley ...	4/7-10-17	Missing, believed killed.
202470	Pte. W. Ainsworth ...	4/7-10-17	Missing, believed killed.
29135	Pte. T. Daniel ...	4/7-10-17	Missing, believed killed.
33617	Pte. A. Marshall ...	4/7-10-17	Missing, believed killed.
202516	Pte. J. Sherrington ...	4/7-10-17	Missing, believed killed.
1710	Pte. R. H. Woodward ...	4/7-10-17	Missing, believed killed.
29057	Pte. J. T. G. Wordley ...	4/7-10-17	Missing, believed killed.
242350	Pte. A. Yorke ...	4/7-10-17	Missing, believed killed.
	2/Lieut. J. H. Lade ...	4/7-10-17	Died of wounds, 5-10-17.
200151	Cpl. G. A. Goodby ...	4/7-10-17	Died of wounds, 5-10-17.
200136	Cpl. F. Bluck ...	4/7-10-17	Died of wounds, 5-10-17.
202038	Pte. E. H. Moore ...	4/7-10-17	Died of wounds, 6-10-17.
200295	Pte. G. W. Bashford ...	4/7-10-17	Died of wounds, 4-10-17.
367	Pte. L. W. Charles ...	4/7-10-17	Died of wounds, 9-10-17.
202412	Pte. C. F. Earnshaw ...	4/7-10-17	Died of wounds, 6-10-17.
201734	Pte. D. A. Freeman ...	4/7-10-17	Died of wounds, 13-10-17.
5350	Pte. R. Hatch ...	4/7-10-17	Died of wounds, 13-10-17.
33318	Pte. H. F. Horton ...	4/7-10-17	Died of wounds, 13-10-17.
23483	Pte. F. J. W. Milton ...	4/7-10-17	Died of wounds, 8-10-17.
15/1384	Pte. G. H. Pritchard ...	4/7-10-17	Died of wounds, 6-10-17.
28978	Pte. M. B. Price ...	4/7-10-17	Died of wounds, 8-10-17.
33937	Pte. W. Selves ...	4/7-10-17	Died of wounds, 4-10-17.
266929	Pte. T. Trubody ...	4/7-10-17	Died of wounds, 20-10-17.

**VIMY.**

200125	L/Cpl. R. Sadler ...	29-10-17	Killed.
24072	L/Cpl. A. C. Warder ...	30-10-17	Killed.
33942	Pte. J. T. Water ...	1-11-17	Killed.

**ITALY.**

200869	Pte. H. Harrison ...	12-2-18	Killed.
201772	Pte. J. S. Gibbons ...	20-2-18	Died of pneumonia.
200863	Pte. A. H. Cosgrove ...	10-3-18	Died of wounds, 31-3-18.
203355	Pte. H. Butler ...	31-5-18	Died of diabetes.
	Major E. A. M. Bindloss	15-6-18	Killed.
	2/Lieut. T. L. Goode ...	15-6-18	Killed.
200592	Sgt. W. J. Plester ...	15-6-18	Killed.
16037	Pte. G. H. Adams ...	15-6-18	Killed.
28967	Pte. H. Brown ...	15-6-18	Killed.
235246	Pte. P. Carr ...	15-6-18	Killed.
33253	Pte. H. W. Eastall ...	15-6-18	Killed.
202006	Pte. W. Etheridge ...	15-6-18	Killed.
202019	Pte. G. Fall ...	15-6-18	Killed.
240847	Pte. C. Freeman ...	15-6-18	Killed.
25100	Pte. G. T. Harwood ...	15-6-18	Killed.
33345	Pte. B. Jones ...	15-6-18	Killed.
200505	Pte. W. J. Newey ...	15-6-18	Killed.
235244	Pte. A. W. Parker ...	15-6-18	Killed.
200177	Pte. E. Pickering ...	15-6-18	Killed.

# History of the 5th Territorial Battalion the Royal 97 Warwickshire Regiment.

<i>Regtl. No.</i>	<i>Rank and Name.</i>	<i>Date of Casualty.</i>	<i>Nature of Casualty.</i>
202012	Pte. B. Sims ...	15-6-18	Killed.
242980	Pte. S. Boneham ...	15-6-18	Died of wounds, 10-7-18.
203337	Pte. W. Taylor ...	15-6-18	Died of wounds, 26-6-18.
203007	Cpl. L. H. B. Smith ...	15-6-18	Missing.
235115	L/Cpl. J. Burton ...	15-6-18	Missing.
203348	Pte. C. R. Butler ...	1-8-18	Killed.
34620	Pte. G. A. Brunning ...	4-8-18	Killed.
33308	Pte. E. Dobson ...	4-8-18	Killed.
	Capt. H. P. Williams-Freeman	9-8-18	Killed.
240319	Pte. A. E. Hooper ...	9-8-18	Killed.
203424	Cpl. Burton ...	9-8-18	Missing.
32611	Pte. P. E. Bradley ...	9-8-18	Missing.
235020	Pte. H. W. Collingwood ...	9-8-18	Missing.
203441	Pte. E. Hey ...	9-8-18	Missing.
235168	Pte. A. J. Revell ...	9-8-18	Missing.
	2/Lieut. J. E. C. Guest	9-9-18	Died of wounds, 20-9-19.
19568	L/Cpl. J. A. Maycock	9-9-18	Killed.
200363	Pte. E. Curtis ...	9-9-18	Killed.
34628	Pte. W. T. J. Gilks ...	9-9-18	Killed.
24515	Pte. F. Hatcher ...	9-9-18	Killed.
27103	Pte. W. H. Easton ...	9-9-18	Killed.
25083	Pte. W. Page ...	9-9-18	Killed.
201380	Pte. G. Salt ...	9-9-18	Killed.
203446	Sgt. R. Bradshaw ...	9-9-18	Missing, believed killed.
201748	Sgt. B. Seal ...	9-9-18	Missing.
200088	Cpl. A. H. Ellis ...	9-9-18	Missing and wounded.
203000	Cpl. W. Pilling ...	9-9-18	Missing.
200933	L/Cpl. T. Hughes ...	9-9-18	Missing.
200222	Pte. E. Chaddaway ...	9-9-18	Missing.
29015	Pte. E. Fryer ...	9-9-18	Missing.
34526	Pte. H. Green ...	9-9-18	Missing.
201959	Pte. J. Johnson ...	9-9-18	Missing.
33370	Pte. T. Smith ...	9-9-18	Missing.
200658	Pte. J. Walker ...	9-9-18	Missing.
33340	Pte. C. J. Webber ...	9-9-18	Missing.
34521	Pte. J. Wharton ...	9-9-18	Missing.
34630	Pte. W. Bone ...	9-9-18	Died of wounds, 11-9-18.
200104	Pte. F. Breese ...	9-9-18	Missing and wounded.
201789	Pte. R. A. Butler ...	9-9-18	Missing and wounded.
266508	Pte. T. W. Coulson ...	9-9-18	Died of wounds, 10-9-18.
5363	Pte. W. H. White ...	9-9-18	Died of wounds, 10-9-18.
34553	Pte. P. S. Smith ...	29-9-18	Killed.
54629	Pte. A. Boulton ...	13-10-18	Died of pneumonia.
34506	Pte. A. Wiles ...	15-10-18	Died of pneumonia.
200082	Pte. A. Kelly ...	20-10-18	Died of pneumonia.
54603	Pte. W. Spencer ...	2-11-18	Killed.
52835	Pte. F. D. Phipps ...	6-11-18	Died of wounds, 7-11-18.
40230	Pte. F. S. Sherrell ...	6-11-18	Died of wounds, 8-11-18.
33311	Pte. W. Mayoh ...	30-1-19	Died.

This list contains the names of all officers, N.C.O.'s and men who were killed or died of wounds whilst serving with the 1/5 R. War. R. Many of all ranks were attached or seconded from other Battalions or Regiments.

## SUMMARY OF CASUALTIES. 1915-1919.

	Killed or Died on Service.	Wounded.	Prisoners.	Total.
Officers ...	26	52	3	81
Other Ranks	449	1121	29	1,599
Total ...	475	1,173	32	1,680
				Grand Total.











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